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BRIDGELAND

PRESIDENT/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Alex MacWilliam

The BRCA Board met on October 16 – in the hall! Yes, we are finally back in our premises almost 11 months after the fire. Rental bookings are now available and, by the time you read this issue of the newsletter, we will have celebrated the re-opening with a bit of a party.

Public art in the neighbourhood has been bolstered by the addition of several new murals, as shown on the cover and in the items submitted to this issue by the Bridgeland Business Improvement Area. Our thanks to the artists and to all those who contributed funds to these projects aimed at providing our community with beautiful and meaningful art.

Some residents have contacted us to advise they are not receiving the newsletter in their mailboxes. The BRCA does not handle delivery of the newsletter as the publisher makes those arrangements with Canada Post. We are making inquiries of both entities and hope to have these issues sorted out in the near future.





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Or, please feel free to communicate with us about community events at events@BRCAcalgary.org

Bridges contains editorial content and information provided by Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association and is distributed free to community residents and businesses 12 times per year. Circulation is approximately 5,820.

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GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess That Food!

- 1. This sweet treat was invented by dentist William Morrison and confectioner John C. Wharton in 1897 in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2. Greek immigrant Sam Panopoulos created this controversial type of pizza in Chatham, Ontario.
- 3. The first food planted in space.
- 4. This chocolatey cereal dessert is thought to have been invented by Alfred James Russell in Red Deer, Alberta.
- 5. US president, Thomas Jefferson, and his chef, James Hemings, brought this classic dish to America from Paris.
- 6. A Québec staple, this dish was invented in 1957 and is Québécois slang for a "mess."





Volunteers are the Heart of our Community



It takes a community to build community, and here at the Calgary Drop-In Centre (the DI), our volunteers are often the glue that holds it all together. There is no corner of the DI that has not benefitted from the generosity of these skilled and kind Calgarians.

Last year alone, DI volunteers gave over 42,000 hours of their time, which is the equivalent of 22 full-time positions! Practicum students from various academic disciplines also chipped in an additional 9,000 hours. By sharing skills and expertise, our volunteers and practicum students enable the DI to give back immensely to our most vulnerable neighbours. The experience gives back too. We love hearing stories about how one of our volunteers has been touched by a kind thank you from a client. Or how someone else learned something new or polished up on skills they could add to their resume.

Our emergency shelter and Free Goods Programs provide opportunities to suit many different interests for individuals and groups. And we are always open to new suggestions. We offer long and short-term roles, with the options of working at the frontline, behind the scenes or remotely. Regardless of your skills, experience, or interests we have a place for you.





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The Railway and Bridgeland – Riverside

by Deb Lee



This summer the Chinook Country Historical Society hosted its annual Historic Calgary Week. It was 10 days full of walks and talks on many topics, with the primary theme being transportation. A hugely significant aspect of the history of transportation in Calgary revolves around the railway and especially the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Did you know that Bridgeland has many connections to the CPR?

First and foremost, the section of land on which Bridgeland exists was originally deeded to the CPR by the federal government. The CPR then sold the land to newcomers for housing to pay for the construction of its transcontinental railway. The deeds for our older homes list the CPR as the original owner of the land.

The CPR reached Calgary in 1883. Thousands of new settlers disembarked here, after travelling for days on the hard seats of the spartan colonist rail cars. You can experience a restored colonist car at Heritage Park. Many settlers travelled onward to settle on farms in the outlying areas. Most of Bridgeland's early residents (many from European countries) arrived by train and gravitated to our community to stay with family members or countrymen who had settled here earlier.

When the CPR's transcontinental line was completed, Calgary became the site for its western maintenance yard.

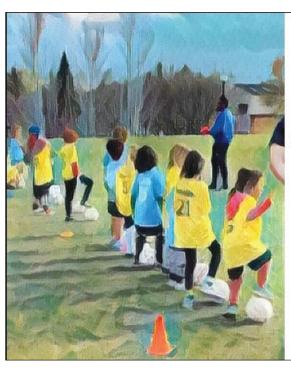
Located in Ogden, there were many jobs for all kinds of workers, from labourers to machinists. In the Henderson's Directories, a source of information about who lived here and their occupations (going back as far as the early 1900s) you can see names of many Bridgelanders who were employed at the CPR's Ogden yards. More residents worked on the special two-car streetcar that operated for many years between Bridgeland and Ogden at the beginning and end of the workday.

Land east of Calgary was typically very dry, and farmers could not depend on sufficient precipitation to grow good crops. The CPR had a significant stake in populating the prairies and tackled this drought problem with irrigation. On the east side of Bridgeland, adjacent to the Bow River you can see the historic headworks of the Western Irrigation District built by the CPR in the early 1900s. Water was funnelled from the Bow River and flowed 26 km down a man-made canal to create Chestermere Lake. Further canal work spread the water eastward into the surrounding land. Irrigation enticed many more settlers to come here and establish farms. The original headworks and canal were rehabilitated in the 1980s and a recreation pathway was constructed. Perhaps some of you have ridden your bicycles on the pathway out to Chestermere.

The CPR had a hand in the design of Bridgeland's streetscape north of 5th Avenue. The Olmsted Firm (of New York's Central Park fame) was hired by the CPR to lay out our streets to make the most of house building opportunities along our steep escarpment. The majority of their 1910 design was approved by the City. Our gradually rising streets such as Bridge Crescent, Drury, Jamieson, Thompson, and Townsend Avenues are evidence of this design.

Another railway, the Calgary & Edmonton (C&E) was constructed on land that is now part of Bridgeland - Riverside. This north-south line has operated since 1891, following the Nose Creek Valley, crossing the Bow River near the Zoo. It is now used by freight trains but for many years the Dayliner carried passengers between Alberta's two largest cities.

While the CPR main line does not actually contact the north side of the river and Bridgeland, we remain very connected. How many of you have heard the distant rumble of the freight trains, especially at night? It's an enduring part of our heritage.



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Remembering and Celebrating "the General"

by Deb Lee of the CGH Commemoration Project



October 4, 2023, marked 25 years since the implosion of the Calgary General Hospital, a massive medical complex that had been a vital part of our

community since 1910. The dramatic end to the hospital was watched by hundreds from our escarpments and thousands on TV. It was a day that left many people emotional and feeling a sense of the loss.

Now is the time to move forward and focus on remembering and celebrating the 88-year legacy and contribution of the CGH to our community and to the entire city of Calgary. Our BRCA-led committee is working hard to bring this project, which will create a commemorative plaza enhancement to Murdoch Park, to fruition. First, publicity and fundraising!

The day before the anniversary of the historic implosion, we were interviewed by Loren McGinnis for CBC Eyeopener. Loren and his co-host Angela Knight typify Calgarians – Lorne is a recent arrival who knew very little about the CGH and Angela lived two blocks from the hospital and experienced the advance preparations and the implosion. On October 4, Norma Reid from Global TV stopped by Bridgeland to hear more about our project. She learned that the footprint of the entire Murdoch Park was the location of the extensive campus of the CGH. The end of the interview summed up our feelings: "We want people to remember the 88-year legacy of the General Hospital, not just the 30 second implosion."

We are gaining the support of organizations such as the CGH Nursing Alumni. This group, whose last class of nurses graduated in 1974, carries on with an annual banquet and they continue to feel great loyalty to the hospital. The Chinook Country Historical Society, who are champions of Calgary's heritage, have also indicated their support and we expect to hear from other key organizations.

An article about the CGH project was featured in the summer newsletter to Bridgeland - Riverside businesses. We hope to gain the support of individual businesses as we explore different ways to raise awareness about our project. We know that the Commemorative Plaza will draw visitors to Bridgeland to remember the hospital and they will no doubt learn more about our community while they are here.

You will soon start to see a new poster and postcards publicizing our CGH project. Complementing our more detailed brochure, all our materials have links to the BRCA webpage and the Parks Foundation Calgary donation page.

We recognize that it's a challenging economic environment right now. But every donation, large or small, conveys to others that the story of the Calgary

General Hospital is an important one that must be told. This momentum will support our efforts to seek grants and larger donations. Please check out the QR code to donate and share the news with your friends.



In the coming months you will hear more about the history of the Calgary General Hospital in the *Bridges* newsletter. Watch for it!

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Exciting New Mural Installation in Bridgeland



The Bridgeland Business Improvement Area is incredibly excited to announce that artist Nicole Wolf. design was selected to install the new mural titled "Land and Memory: A Portrait of Bridgeland" that is now completed and located on the pillars under the flyover.

In May 2023, the Bridgeland BIA invited artists to submit qualifications for the design of two murals on overpass piers along Memorial Drive, between Edmonton Trail and 4 Street NE. The murals are painted directly on the overpass piers to create a temporary, vibrant, and engaging landscape that can be enjoyed by motorists, pedestrians, businesses, and residents in the area while construction is underway on the Bridgeland Main Streets Improvements Program.

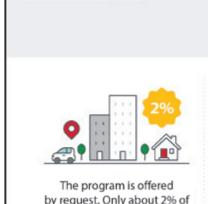
The murals are intended to be a temporary measure, in place for approximately five years, and will add visual interest and contribute to the vibrancy of the area. The location of the murals in the south gate of Bridgeland opens opportunities to explore the community's roots through varying perspectives, including the relationship between Indigenous people and the local community.

The Goals of the Project

The Residential Parking Permit Program

limits on-street parking in busy areas so residents have better access to parking

- 1. Reflect on the Bridgeland community past.
- Consider the historical and present-day context of the location and the variety of cultural communities represented.
- Create visual interest and encourage pedestrians, motorists, cyclists, and other roadway users to slow down and explore the community through its art.



households use this service.

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near their homes.

New fees ensure that the cost of running the service is covered by those who benefit from it.



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Yielding to Emergency Vehicles

by Alberta Health Services

For everyone's safety, it is important motorists understand how to correctly yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles with their lights and sirens activated. You can help EMS, police, and fire get to the scene quickly and safely by following these rules of the road.

When an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated:

- If you're in the middle of an intersection when an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated, safely clear the intersection.
- On a one- or two-lane road, motorists should move to the right side of the road, slow down, and then stop, remaining parallel with the road. Remember to signal.
- Move right or left to the nearest curb on one-way streets.
- On a road with three or more lanes, motorists should move to the nearest side of the road and stop. If driving in the centre lane, move to the right side of the road and stop. Remember to signal.
- Come to a complete stop and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass. Shoulder check for more emergency vehicles before re-entering traffic flow. Remember to signal.
- Emergency vehicles might use any available road space to maneuver. This could include shoulders or turning lanes, etc., to pass other traffic.

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When operating a vehicle:

- Motorists must reduce speed to 60 km/h or the posted speed, whichever is lower, when passing emergency vehicles or tow trucks that are stopped with their lights flashing. This law applies to the lane(s) immediately next to the stopped vehicles. If you're not in the lane next to the stopped vehicles, it is recommended to reduce speed and leave lots of space between yourself and emergency personnel.
- Do not break the rules of the road in order to give right of way to an emergency vehicle. This could include proceeding through a red light or making an illegal turn. Actions such as these jeopardize all motorists in the area.
- Drivers must place their full attention on the roadway and toward the safe operation of their vehicle at all times. The fine for distracted driving in Alberta is \$300 and three demerit points.
- Do not drive within 150 meters of an emergency vehicle with its siren and/or flashing lights on. For reference, 150 m is nearly 1.5 times the length of a football field.



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Ode to Autumn Trees

What would your Ode to Autumn Trees say? Would it be full of gratitude and remembrance or curiosity and questions? Would it gush at the generous harvest of fruits or vibrance of colours or be a subdued moan to the many fallen leaves?

The Bridgeland and Renfrew tree committee have lots of respect, awe, gratitude, and concern for the trees in our neighbourhoods. We treat them as friends who wave to us as we pass by and we like it when we see you, our fellow neighbours, taking care of them such as when they need a drink during a hot summer. Thank you!

We were inspired from an article we read about how the City of Melbourne has email addresses for trees. Though originally intended to help report a concern, emails also came in the form of fan mail, love letters, wishes and poems. Examples: "Dear Tree. If you are that big round beautiful low hanging tree, I think you are my favourite tree. Such beauty on such an ugly road" or "Hi tree on the corner of Punt Road and Alexandra Avenue and that little street that goes up the side. I've always wondered about you ever since my slightly strange driving instructor (who always smelled like cat food and peppermints) told me you were his favourite tree."

What are you concerned or curious about, inspired, or grateful for regarding our trees? If you have a tree issue, we remind you that 311 (online or phone) is where you address your concerns. If you (or anyone in your home) has a tree story, picture, idea, poem or musing to share, feel free to email us at trees@brcacalgary.org and we will look to include it in our upcoming newsletter articles. And if you are ever looking for information or inspiration about trees, take a walk outside, look out the window and search online for tree quotes, stories, pictures, guides, etc. as there is an abundance of messages that will no doubt resonate with your feeling for trees!

"And all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves..." - Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse

Thanks, from the Tree Committee.



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