

APRIL 2025

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BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Sunset view from Tom Campbell Hill by Deb Lee



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The BRCA is celebrating 75 years!
Keep your eye out for extra fun celebrations happening in our community this year!

OFFICIAL



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BRCA Hall Rentals

Phone: 403-263-5755

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

New and returning members, please apply online at brcacalgary.org/membership or use this form and mail or drop off along with cheque made out to:

Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association
917 Centre Ave NE
Calgary AB T2E 0C6



Membership type: (please check one)

Individual

Family

Senior



Member information: (please print clearly, attach additional family member names)

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

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 5,615.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will see in this issue of *Bridges* that the BRCA is celebrating a milestone this year. The Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association was formally created under a predecessor of the Alberta Societies Act on August 12, 1950, making us 75 years old this summer. I believe we were the second community association in Calgary to take this formal step. Our resident historian and BRCA Heritage Director Deb Lee notes in her article that a community association in some form has actually existed in our neighbourhood for over 100 years. Perhaps our slogan will have to be "Bridgeland-Riverside – we might be 117, but we only look 75". We are planning a number of events to mark the BRCA's Diamond Jubilee, so be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming opportunities to join in the celebrations.

In late February, we hosted a Community Climate Conversation at the Hall. This event was organized by the Calgary Climate Hub, a volunteer non-profit organization that unites a diverse group of Calgarians committed to working together to support meaningful local action on climate change. Attendees heard from a number of organizations active in the climate space, including the City of Calgary Climate and Environment office, Forests for Calgary and the Bow Valley Green Energy Cooperative. Breakout sessions discussed nature-based climate solutions such as community micro-forests, the City's Climate Plan and options for clean energy transition. If you are interested in this area further information can be found on the Calgary Climate Hub website at calgaryclimatehub.ca.

My report on the recent Calgary Policing Summit is in this issue. This conference was put on by the Calgary Police Commission. Meetings of the Commission are

open to the public and you can attend online. See calgarypolicecommission.ca for further details as to how to attend. While at the Summit, I had an opportunity to speak with our CPS Community Resource Officer about the Community Engagement Link CPS runs from the BRCA Hall on Wednesdays. We had asked CPS to consider extending the Link's hours into the evening to allow people to stop by outside their work hours. CPS has agreed to do so on specific Wednesdays starting soon and further details will be provided once the schedule has been worked out. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the CPS officers at the Link during the day if you are able to do so. They are very approachable and are happy to hear your concerns and answer your questions.

Alex MacWilliam





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bigbooksale.ca

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Health Care Progress at “The General” - Part Two

by Deb Lee, Heritage Committee and Calgary General Hospital Commemoration project

In our last article (February 25) we highlighted health care changes over the very early years of the Calgary General Hospital (CGH). After the 1950s opening of the 560-bed Calgary General Hospital #4, significant societal changes propelled new ways of doing things in health care and “The General” led with many innovations.

In this era, chronic diseases and accidents were the primary reasons to go to a hospital. People were living longer. The average lifespan grew from 60 years for men and 62 for women in 1931 to 66 years for men and 70.8 for women in 1951. Technology advanced and new disciplines emerged such as physiotherapists, respiratory therapists, and laboratory and X-ray technicians.

With the 1958 introduction of the Alberta Hospitalization Plan, the province took over the funding of hospitals, relieving the city from the burden of paying for hospital costs at “The General”. They maintained ownership and board leadership but now only had to pay for operational cost overruns. More funds became available to make necessary improvements.

Standards for hospital care were raised with the introduction of the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation (CCHA) in 1958. Participation was voluntary, but it was beneficial for hospitals to request regular review by CCHA and upgrade their services to meet with CCHA standards accordingly. “The General” got on board, with continual improvement to its services and programs.

One recommendation of CCHA was the inclusion of chaplains. “The General” was the first hospital in Alberta to do so, in 1960. In addition to religious ministrations, chaplains with the Pastoral Care department provided a range of caring services to patients as well as to staff. Reverend Chapman, one of CGH’s first chaplains, also volunteered to lead the General Hospital Choir of 100 staff members who sang for patients and staff at Christmas.

As the incidence of chronic lung conditions increased, “The General”, under the leadership of Dr. M. Ishii, started the Inhalation Therapy service in 1964. Beginning with one therapist and three respirators,



it was the first and became the most advanced such department in Southern Alberta. This innovative service drew significant interest from hospitals across Canada. Recognizing the growing need for Respiratory Therapists, “The General” began its in-house teaching program that transitioned to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in 1970.

Chronic diseases and accidents are the primary causes for the amputation of limbs. Focused rehabilitation and the use of artificial limbs, called prostheses, became the treatment of choice. CGH opened the first prosthetic service in a general hospital in Canada in 1967 and soon added an orthotic component to the department. Over the years, their products, along with rehabilitation, helped hundreds of patients regain function and return to productive lives.

Another significant change in local health care was the beginnings of the University of Calgary Medical School in 1967. Initially addressing the shortage of family physicians, the school soon attracted many new medical specialists who pursued advances in their fields.

In another first for CGH, under the leadership of orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Norm Schachar, the first tissue bank for human joints was established. This enabled a viable joint transplant program where arthritic joints could be replaced, or limbs could be preserved in the case of bone cancers.

A commitment to continuing medical education got a boost in 1967 with a donation from the Mackid family, in memory of early CGH physicians, Doctors G. H. and L. S. Mackid. This fund provided for the annual Mackid Lecture and Seminar, where medical experts shared the latest research and practices on relevant topics, thus raising the expertise of all Calgary doctors.

Indeed, there was lots of progress in the 1950s and '60s and this carried on in future years. Stay tuned to learn about more innovations at “The General”.

Calgary Policing Summit 2025

by Alex MacWilliam

In March I attended the Calgary Policing Summit, a full day conference hosted by the Calgary Police Commission. It was an opportunity for community representatives and various stakeholders to listen and provide insights and perspectives on the plans and priorities of the Calgary Police Service (CPS). The theme of this year's Summit was "Safe Public Spaces" and the program included:

- A presentation on how CPS and the City of Calgary are working together to address crime and disorder in public spaces.
- A panel discussion on how the police and the community can work together to improve safety in public spaces.
- A panel discussion on how the community as a whole can better help people in crisis to reduce and prevent crime and disorder.
- A Q&A session with Chief Constable Mark Neufeld.
- Booths hosted by various CPS teams and other agencies such as Alpha House and the Distress Centre involved in improving community safety.

There were 360 invited representatives in attendance, and I was seated at a table with representatives of a number of other communities such as Parkdale and University Heights. It was interesting to hear different perspectives and experiences from community association leaders in other parts of the City.

The presentations and panel discussions were very informative, with CPS representatives from the Joint Management Team and Community Response Engagement Teams providing statistics and insight into the approaches they are taking, in conjunction with other agencies, to deal with disorder and criminal activity. The JMT was set up in 2023, meets weekly and includes representation from 30 entities. A data analyst from CPS provided statistics showing that property crime and violent crime levels in the City are decreasing, as is the level of disorder. It was noted that these numbers are based on what is reported, emphasizing the need for citizens to call in incidents when they see them. It was also noted that Downtown is the only district in the city where crime and disorder levels are not decreasing.

A program to deal with "High System Users" was launched in 2024 and has 50 CPS officers assigned to do. Statistics showed that 37 individuals were responsible for almost 2,000 incidents reported to police. The HSU program now covers 50 persons identified by their frequency of involvement in bylaw violations and criminal events and by information provided by members of the public (again showing the importance of reporting). The HSU program works with Alberta Health Services, City of Calgary Bylaws, Calgary Transit, and various mental health agencies.

The panel discussion addressing "The Future of Safe Public Spaces" included a representative from the Crown Prosecutor's office and the head of the new Calgary Community Court. The latter entity started in mid-2024 and is an innovative approach to divert vulnerable individuals charged with bylaw offences from the criminal justice system and connect them with rehabilitation and stabilization programs as an alternative to fines or other punitive sanctions. This panel also included Alberta Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, Dan Williams, who spoke about the province's new Alberta Recovery Model, which is intended to address individuals who are a danger to themselves or others due to addiction or substance use.

This various panel members identified the biggest factors impacting the safety of public spaces over the next five years as:

- Increased homelessness.
- Focusing on healing in indigenous populations.
- "Unplugging" the blockage preventing adequate federal government funding from getting to where it is most needed.
- Dangerous drug supply (one of the panellists said we need to "envison a world where it is easier to get help than it is to get high").

The City released its Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan last May. It is a plan for implementing 28 recommendations made by the Downtown Safety Leadership Table. The representative of the City who spoke on the Plan said its focus will be on the wellbeing of people, creating "great public spaces" and providing timely responses to safety concerns. In response to a question from the floor, we were told that community associations will be consulted and given opportunities to provide input to the Plan. More information is available on the City's Community Safety webpage.



Celebrating 75 Years of Heritage (And Many More to Come)

by Deb Lee, Heritage Committee

This year marks 75 years since Bridgeland-Riverside became a formal Community Association in the City of Calgary. Seventy-five years is quite a milestone, but we've also come to learn that Bridgeland and Riverside started an association 117 years ago. According to The City of Calgary's website, "the first group to operate like today's community association was the Bridgeland-Riverside Athletic Association (BRAA)". Established in 1908, "The BRAA started as informal 'get-togethers' to organize community recreational activities, such as hockey and soccer." These activities enabled the new residents from many different countries to get to know one another.

Our two hyphenated communities were completely separate at that time. Riverside (emanating north of the Bow River and the historic Reconciliation Bridge, formerly known as Langevin Bridge, on the west side) was established as a village in 1902 and then annexed to the city in 1910. Bridgeland, further to the east and built on the lower escarpment, was established in 1907.

Learning more about this remarkable community collaboration has been challenging, but stories in old Calgary newspapers (via the newspapers.com website) shed some light. In early 1924, there's a column about a meeting to elect officers to the Bridgeland Riverside "community club". In May of that year, the club liaised with the Riverside Baseball Club to support their team. Money was also set aside for the horticultural group to offer a prize for the best flower garden in the two communities, and a dance was planned. The Association decided to speak with the city commissioner to advocate for the grading of 8 Street, from the General Hospital to the Boulevard (the precursor of Memorial Drive).

News about the BRAA in 1925 focused on the opening of a community centre on 4 Street and plans for whist drives and dances. Launching of separate committees for sports, social, and horticultural endeavours was

reported in 1926 as well, and the beginnings of a conversation about taking over space in the former Firehall #4, after the fire services had been moved to the nearby General Hospital. It was rare in these articles for the names of the many involved residents to be mentioned. As so often happens when delving into stories from the past, we're left with lots more questions to be researched.

What's clear from these newspaper articles is that the role taken by our early community association, the BRAA, has carried on to the present day. The purpose is to bring people together for the betterment of the community and to voice community concerns. We do this now through our BRCA committees, such as Beautification, Events, Planning, Programs, Safety, and Transportation. We are able to pursue our goals and activities because regular people –like you– volunteer your time to plan, organize, get things done—and to have some fun along the way. Just as they did in 1908, it's the efforts of volunteers that make it all happen!

We are planning to celebrate our 75 years as a formalized Community Association. Watch for more details and sign up to help make it a reality.

A promotional poster for BRCA's 2025 membership drive. The top section has a dark blue background with the text "Join the BRCA" in white, flanked by small white starburst icons. Below this is the BRCA logo (a house icon with "BRCA" and "BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION" text). The main body of the poster is light blue and features the text "2025 Membership is FREE" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, it says "Renew or register for Individual, Senior and Family memberships". There are three call-to-action boxes: the first has a yellow envelope icon and says "Sign up to get information about BRCA events, programs, and community news."; the second says "Consider making a donation in lieu of membership fees." and includes a small "Thank You!" sticker icon; the third is the website address "www.brccalgary.org" in white text on a dark blue background.

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The Fresh 5

The Fresh 5 is a flat-rate version of our essential services, featuring cavity-detecting X-rays and two units of scaling. We know there are many barriers to accessing oral care but your finances shouldn't be one of them. The Fresh 5 includes five must-have treatments and is great for anyone who has lapsed in visits to the dentist and is in need of a bit of catching up.

Both options are designed to keep your smile healthy and bright. Do you have more questions about which package might be the right fit for you?

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The Essentials

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Fresh 5

Fresh 5 is a flat rate option with five must-have treatments.



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Jane's Walk

"ARTSY BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE"
SATURDAY MAY 3RD @ 1PM

REGISTER: JANESWALK.CALGARYCOMMUNITIES.COM

Beacon Original Art

Beacon Original Art returns to the BRCA Hall on April 26 and 27 for its Annual Spring Art Show and Sale. Meet over 40 local artists and shop for paintings, jewellery, glass, photography, ceramics, sculptures, and textiles. Different artists in attendance each day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm with free admission, draws, and no GST. See you there Bridgelanders!

Beacon Original Art

Annual Spring Show & Sale
Saturday April 26
Sunday April 27, 2025
10am - 4pm

Different Artists in Attendance Each Day!!
Painting - Jewelry - Glass - Photography
Ceramics - Sculpture - Textiles

BRCA Hall 917 Centre Ave NE Calgary
Free Parking & Admission, Draws & No GST

BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY
PARADE OF GARAGE SALES

MAY 4TH
9AM - 3PM

REGISTER YOUR GARAGE SALE TO BE ADDED TO THE PARADE MAP.

HOUSES WHO WISH TO REGISTER CAN SCAN THE QR CODE

CONDOS/APARTMENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR A TABLE AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, EMAIL: HALL@BRCA.CALGARY.ORG

BRCA
BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DALTON BEUM WITH REMAX KEY

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BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE
2025 YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

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REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 10TH

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TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG/PROGRAMS/SOCCER/

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311 CALGARY	ALPHA HOUSE	TRANSIT SAFETY	211 ALBERTA
311 allows you to access City services and information 24/7. The information reported to 311 helps the City record keep and direct their response where needed. Call 311, visit calgary.ca/311 or download the 311 app.	Alpha House offers a range of outreach programs aimed at engaging clients into services and helping reduce the impact of addiction and homelessness on the broader community and public systems.	Calgary Transit partners with Peace Officers, the Calgary Police Service, and the Alpha House DOAP Team to respond to situations as they arise. On-call support is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week.	211 provides access to a network of community, social, health, and government services. You can call, text, or chat online - ab.211.ca and be connected to a broad suite of social resources and supports.

PLEASE BEGIN BY REPORTING ALL CONCERNS TO 311

<p>HOMELESSNESS + ROUGH SLEEPING</p> <p>Alpha House HELP Team</p> <p>*Formerly the DOAP Team T:403-998-7388</p>	<p>ENCAMPMENTS</p> <p>Alpha House Encampment Team T:403-805-7388</p> <p>*Please be sure to report all encampment concerns to 311</p>	<p>TRANSIT SAFETY</p> <p>Transit Safety (24/7) Text 74100 or call 403-262-1000 (option 1)</p> <p>Alpha House Transit Team T:403-827-7106</p>	<p>NEEDLE DEBRIS</p> <p>Alpha House Needle Response Team Call/Text 403-796-5334 *After hour requests will be answered the following day. Urgent after-hours needle debris collection: call 311</p>	<p>MENTAL HEALTH + ADDICTION</p> <p>211 Alberta (24/7)</p> <p>If you or someone you know is seeking help for addiction or mental health, contact 211 for available local resources.</p>
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BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE

MAY 10TH 9AM - 1:30PM

Community Clean-Up

VOLUNTEER

Litter Pick-Up



RECYCLE



DROP-OFF

Oversized Garbage



BRCA HALL

917 CENTRE AVE NE

We are looking for volunteers like you to Help tidy up our beautiful neighbourhood and parks.

REGISTER HERE:

WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG

DETAILS:

May 10th from 9 - 11am meet at the BRCA hall to sign-in, get supplies & be assigned to an area. Please come prepared for the weather with gloves, appropriate clothing & closed-toe shoes. Refreshments and snacks will be provided

QUESTIONS?

hall@brccalgary.org

+1 403-263-5755



REHABILITATION SOCIETY

PARKING LOT 7, 11 STREET NE

ELECTRONICS

TVs | computers | laptops | printers | fax wires | cables | home entertainment systems | cell phones

METAL

all metals | NO fridges or freezers

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Drop-In Centre Free Goods Program accepts all clean and usable household items furniture, cookware, clothing, and hygiene items for no/low income Calgarians exiting homelessness

Please be prepared to unload your own vehicle

WHAT CAN'T I DISPOSE OF?

tires | household chemicals | microwaves | propane tanks | glass | appliances | liquids | car batteries metals | paint | compost

DISPOSAL PICK UP

If you are unable to transport your oversized items. Please email by no later than May 3rd 2025

HALL@BRCACALGARY.ORG



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE CITY OF CALGARY COMMUNITY STRATEGIES AND WASTE & RECYCLING

Collection Days Are Changing in April

by *The City of Calgary*

Starting April 22, many Calgary households will see blue, black, or green cart pick-up days moving to improve routes. These updates also align with the return of city-wide weekly green cart collection. The new collection schedules will be available on calgary.ca/cartschedule by April 8. Check your schedule to:

- Find out whether your blue, black, or green cart pick-up day is changing.
- Know when your weekly green cart begins.

Collection schedule changes update automatically if you have signed up for reminders.

Did you know that The City provides free reminders for your blue, black, and green cart pick-up days? All you need to do is sign up! When it's time to put your carts out for collection, we'll send you a reminder. When you sign up, you will get:

- Instant access to your pick-up schedule.
- Notifications about any changes to your collection schedule.
- Useful tips for using your blue, green, and black carts.

It's Easy!

Option 1: Go to calgary.ca/cartschedule.

- Type your address in the search box to view your collection days.
- Click on 'Get a reminder' to receive your preferred method. Choose to be notified by email, calendar, or phone, either the day before or the day of your collection.

Option 2: Download the Garbage Day App onto your phone.

- Available on the App Store or Google Play.
- Set notifications to remind you of your cart collection days.

Never miss another cart collection day again.

Community Climate Conversations at BRCA Hall





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Bridgeland-Riverside Annual Plant Share - May 25, 2025

Planting and growing season is upon us again! A little introductory information, my name is Lynda Valliere, retired from Petroleum Engineering, I am an accomplished events planner and proud to be living in Bridgeland for six years this coming June.

I was very happy to be accepted to the Beautification Committee in March last year, helping to plan and participate in their 2024 endeavours, plus, I am privileged to be organizing this year's Plant Share on May 25, 2025. Deb Lee has handed me the reins after her seven years of dedication to this project - I hope I can fill your knowledgeable boots with another success Deb!

The Plant Share is a collaboration between BRCA's Rooftop Garden Committee and its Beautification Committee. To quote Deb, from her description of it:

"The purpose of the Plant Share has been to provide an opportunity to connect with others in the community in a neutral setting, to support people improving or starting their perennial garden for low costs... to learn more about gardening and the people who garden in Bridgeland."

This sounds like a great purpose to me! On the morning of May 25, we will setup at the BRCA's Rooftop Garden, 917 Centre Ave NE. Please drop off your plants to share with your neighbours, between 10:30 to 11:00 am.

New This Year: Perennials, annuals, and houseplants will all be welcome.

To participate is easy: place each plant in a pot and mark its identity. Include helpful details such as active season, blooms, leaves, bark, height, spread, etc. That's it! Once the volunteers have all the plants arranged, we will have the opportunity to 'shop the Rooftop' until 2:00 pm!

Even if you are just starting out and don't yet have extras to leave, we hope you can find items to take with you for your new garden. Or simply come out for the company of fellow Bridgelanders!

Need Plants, Find Some - Have Plants, Leave Some!

Watch for reminders and more to come soon on social

media, on the BRCA website, and the May *Bridges* newsletter. I can hardly wait to meet more neighbours and getting to know some of the Rooftop Garden committee members!

Any questions please contact our Beautification Committee at beautification@brcacalgary.org, or Rooftop Garden Committee at rooftopgarden@brcacalgary.org.



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BRCA VOLUNTEER AND BOARD OF DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT FOR 2025

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We are looking for: Committee Volunteers

Farmers Market, Events, Transportation, Planning, Safety, Beautification and more

Board of Director positions

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT? Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! www.communitymediation.ca, 403-269-2707.

JOIN US! Want to add some volunteering, fellowship, and fun to your life? We are a ladies volunteer group with a focus on community service and supporting women's health and wellness organizations in Calgary. For more information and contact information, check out our website at www.prairieroseprogressclub.ca or email info@prairieroseprogressclub.ca.


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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LINK

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