

JANUARY 2025

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# BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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BY

**ERLYN BARRAEZ & JACQUELINE GARCIA**

403-402-9270  
IN ENGLISH

403-918-8270  
IN SPANISH

## INVESTMENT

SHORT & LONG TERM - STRATEGY FOR SMALL  
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8						6		
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SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR THE SOLUTION



**DIRECTORS**

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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

New and returning members, please apply online at [brcacalgary.org/membership](http://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](mailto: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

The start of a new year brings with it anticipation of what lies in store for the coming twelve months. When it comes to politics and government, uncertainty and unpredictability seem to be the new normal these days. At the time of writing this column, the situation in Ottawa is chaotic, which may or may not signal an end to the minority government and a federal election in 2025. On the other hand, provincial and municipal election dates are predetermined, being October 18, 2027, and October 20, 2025, respectively.

With the municipal election on the horizon, I encourage you to become familiar with the issues that affect you and learn where the candidates for mayor, council, and school boards stand on these matters. Whether it is fiscal management, transportation, planning and development, housing, safety, or other important questions, use the upcoming campaign to seek answers from the candidates so you can make informed decisions on election day.

The BRCA is not an arm or agency of the City of Calgary. We are an independent, volunteer-run, non-profit community association that manages and operates the community hall (a City-owned facility) under a written agreement with the City. In addition to creating opportunities for residents to participate in social events, recreational programs, and educational activities, the BRCA strives to voice community concerns to the municipal government. The City designates a Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator (NPC) to support the board and act as a liaison with various City departments and agencies. The NPC attends our board meetings and reports to us on matters that might be of interest and benefit to the community (e.g. grant

opportunities, programs, and services). The board frequently asks our NPC to pass on our questions and concerns to specific parts of the city administration.

The BRCA strives to stay aware of concerns in the community and to raise them with the appropriate City officials such as the Planning, Transportation, and Parks divisions as well as the Calgary Police Service (CPS). We encourage residents to do likewise, via Calgary 3-1-1 (phone and mobile app) and the CPS non-emergency phone line at 403-268-1234.

3-1-1 provides information and initiates requests for most City services. If you have concerns about snow/ice covered sidewalks, defective street lighting, potholes, or other matters, use 3-1-1 to register your concern and request that action be taken. The City tracks 3-1-1 requests, and these statistics are factors in determining whether systemic issues exist that require greater attention and resources. You won't always get the answer/response you are hoping for, but it is still important to make your concerns known.

The BRCA wishes you all the best in 2025 and looks forward to what the new year will bring for our community and our city.

*Alex MacWilliam*



**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed within any published article, report, or submission reflect those of the author and should not be considered to reflect those of Great News Media or the Community and/or Residents' Association. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be accurate but is not warranted to be so.

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**News, Events,  
& More**



**Crime  
Statistics**



**Real Estate  
Statistics**



## Tips to Support Small Local Businesses

Get to know the small businesses in your area and learn how you can support with these five easy tips!

We love our small businesses in Bridgeland and with the construction that has kicked off we are asking you to please continue to make a point of supporting the heart of Bridgeland – and that is all of our amazing businesses that call our community home.

Here are five easy tips to help you support local and small business in Bridgeland.

1. Follow local and small businesses, such as stores, merchants, and restaurants, on social media and engage with their content!
2. Share your experience by writing a review.
3. Encourage your friends and family to support local businesses by purchasing gift certificates or gift cards from a local store.
4. Shop local – both online and in-person.
5. Sign up for their emails and newsletters!

Remember – your support goes a long way.

**Supporting Small Businesses**  
without spending any money

- 01 Share their posts
- 02 Like their posts
- 03 Tag a friend
- 04 Comment on something nice
- 05 Post a picture
- 06 Leave a positive review

BRIDGELAND

**Join the BRCA**

BRCA  
BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**2025 Membership is FREE**

**Renew or register for Individual, Senior and Family memberships**

Sign up to get information about BRCA events, programs, and community news.

Consider making a donation in lieu of membership fees.

[www.brcaalcalgary.org](http://www.brcaalcalgary.org)

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February 25th @ 6:30pm





# WE'RE HIRING

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- Soccer Coordinator.
- Farmers Market Manager.
- Hall Maintenance Contractor.
- Hall Rental Coverage (evening/ weekends/ holidays).



For full job descriptions go to  
[www.brcacalgary.org](http://www.brcacalgary.org)

Send your resume to  
[hall@brcacalgary.org](mailto:hall@brcacalgary.org) by Jan 18th

## TECH 101 FOR SENIORS WORKSHOPS

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Android Basics

Thursday January  
23rd @ 1pm

How to Use APPS

(Uber, Skip the Dishes, My  
Health)

Friday February  
21st @ 10am

How to Manage Passwords  
and Logins and Security

Thursday March 13th @ 1pm

[WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG](http://WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG)

WORKSHOPS ARE FREE. MAX 20 PEOPLE.  
MUST REGISTER. EACH WORKSHOP IS  
SEPARATE REGISTRATION. BY EMAIL  
[PROGRAMS@BRCACALGARY.ORG](mailto:PROGRAMS@BRCACALGARY.ORG)  
OR PHONE 403-263-5755

WORKSHOP LOCATION IS  
BRCA HALL 917 CENTRE AVE NE



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LINK

Calgary Police Service officers will be at the BRCA  
every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Share your concerns, ask questions and learn about  
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## BRCA VOLUNTEER AND BOARD OF DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT FOR 2025

We are looking for individuals who can commit to helping to create a strong and vibrant community that is inclusive and engaged.



### We are looking for: Committee Volunteers

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

### Board of Director positions

Treasurer  
Volunteer Director  
Safety Director  
Beautification Director

For more information go to [www.brcacalgary.org](http://www.brcacalgary.org)  
Or email [membership@brcacalgary.org](mailto:membership@brcacalgary.org)



Congrats  
**PAM SWAN**

On **10** years with the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association

## BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE WINTER YOGA & QI GONG

<b>CHAIR YOGA BEGINNER</b> THURSDAYS 11:00AM - 12:00PM JAN 9 - FEB 20 (NO CLASS FEB 13) <b>FREE</b>	<b>YIN YANG YOGA</b> MONDAYS 7:00 - 8:00PM JAN 6 - FEB 10 <b>\$78</b>
<b>CHAIR YOGA ADVANCED</b> MONDAYS 11:00AM - 12:00PM JAN 6 - FEB 10 <b>FREE</b>	<b>QI GONG</b> FRIDAYS 10:00AM - 11:00PM JAN 10 - FEB 14 LIMIT 10 PARTICIPANTS <b>\$78</b>

ALL CLASSES HAVE A MAXIMUM OF 18 PARTICIPANTS AND ARE LED BY KIM FESTA AT THE BRCA COMMUNITY HALL (917 CENTRE AVE NE)  
YOGA IS IN THE LOWER HALL; QI GONG IN THE UPSTAIRS ROOM

REGISTER ONLINE BY DEC 15  
[WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG](http://WWW.BRCACALGARY.ORG)  
 OR BY CALLING 403-263-5755 OR EMAILING [PROGRAMS@BRCACALGARY.ORG](mailto:PROGRAMS@BRCACALGARY.ORG)

CANCELLATION POLICY: REFUNDS MINUS \$4 AVAILABLE FOR CANCELLATIONS OVER 7 DAYS; NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR CANCELLATIONS WITHIN 7 DAYS TO START DATE

## Joke of the Month

*Why did the pony  
get detention?*

*Because he was  
horsing around.*





# Calgary General Hospital Commemoration Project Update

by Deb Lee, Heritage and CGH Commemoration Project



In early December 2024, we wrapped up the last of our info sessions about the history and our plans to tell the story of 108 years of the Calgary General Hospital (CGH). During our 12 sessions over the past year, we have met a wide range of people and learned a lot. Many attendees were past employees at the hospital. Staff from the Rehabilitation Department of the 1980s and 1990s came out in full force and shared memories about the meaningfulness of their work with patients, some of whom were in hospital for many months of therapy. A surgeon spoke about the innovations in vascular surgery techniques that resulted in better outcomes for patients. We met a nonagenarian (he is more than 90 years old!) who had been a construction worker on the 1953 building and who continued to work in the Maintenance Department until closure in 1997. He was quite emotional in thanking us for pursuing this project to commemorate the hospital. We heard from staff who were the last to leave when the hospital closed in 1997 and how they wrote on the walls as a way of saying goodbye to the hospital. We are still seeking photos of those heartfelt messages.

Many participants shared that they or other family members had been born at “the General”; or that they had given birth to their children there. If only we could find out the total number of babies born there over the many years – it would probably be well over 100,000!

A former payroll department staffer reminded us that the hospital was part of the City and paycheques came from the City of Calgary. Graduates from the School of Nursing remembered their three years of hard work

and study and their forays into Bridgeland to purchase pantyhose and go for walks in the neighbourhood. Participants who were newcomers to the city were incredulous that such a large hospital was imploded.

We heard suggestions from participants about different ways that we might tell the story of the CGH — with creativity and making use of digital technology so that the story is accessible to all, now and into the future. We’re pursuing these suggestions.

There were some consistent messages from all participants. The first was the culture of caring and collegiality that was present at “the General”. Our colleagues were all there to help patients and staff. People from various departments such as the maintenance, dietary, nursing, rehab, lab and X-ray, administration, and physicians all worked together for the benefit of their patients. This resulted in the atmosphere of friendliness and belonging that so many people fondly remembered.

The second message we heard repeatedly was praise and encouragement for our efforts to bring this commemoration project to fruition.

We want to thank everyone who attended one of our sessions and who shared their memories, perspectives, and suggestions on the Commemoration of the Calgary General Hospital. We have ended our presentations at the BRCA community centre but if you know of any group of ten people or more, we would be happy to come to you and share our presentation and discussion. We also have a new banner that enables us to share about the project at different events.

We are progressing with fundraising and are grateful for the donations (tax deductible) made by many individual donors. We set a goal for \$100,000 from individuals and we are over 60% there. We continue with fundraising for larger amounts from different levels of government. Our most immediate focus is on funds that will enable us to do more, such as in-depth architectural plans and up-to-date costing for the project.

Stay tuned for more stories about “the General” in the coming months. There is still lots to tell!

We are always happy to hear from you. To reach the Heritage and CGH Commemoration project please email us at [cghproject@brcacalgary.org](mailto:cghproject@brcacalgary.org).

# The Kids are Back in the Historic Riverside Bungalow

by Deb Lee, Heritage Committee

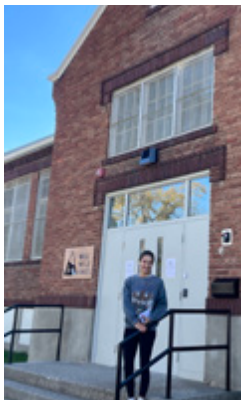
A couple of years ago, we wrote about our concerns for the future of the 102-year-old Riverside Bungalow. The school, located north of 1 Avenue on the Riverside School property, had provided four classrooms for the burgeoning population of Bridgeland and Riverside children, beginning in the early 1900s. Known as Riverside Bungalow #2, the younger children attended here before they moved to the Riverside Bungalow #1 at the south end of property. Then they advanced to the old sandstone school, which was then called Langevin Junior High School.

The building, owned by the Calgary Board of Education (CBE), sat vacant for over a decade and there seemed little possibility of it being updated and used as a school again. In 2022, the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) was planning to rezone the property for future sale, to be purchased and re-developed or demolished. Former students and Bridgeland residents voiced their concerns, in the hopes that the historic school building could be saved.

Our first sign for optimism was the upgrading of the roof in early 2023. Then, over the next several months, we saw that several waves of work were being done to upgrade the ventilation, heating, and interior of the building. Things were looking up!

Two years later, the doors are once again open to school children — and we are thrilled!

Thanks to the vision and determination of Chloe Dussier, the owner of Wee Wild Ones (WWO) a preschool and afterschool program, the historic school building has been saved. It is leased from CBE and renovated to modern-day standards. No doubt there were numerous challenges to be surmounted, but with persistence and creativity Chloe pushed through them all.



A tour of the former school building featured the original layout: four large, high-ceiling classrooms on the main floor, and office space on the upper level. Washrooms are on the lower level. Two separate north side entrances – originally one for boys and one for girls, still exist. The spacious classrooms have retained some of the blackboards and all their charm, with the original wainscotting, large windows, door frames, and antique doorknobs from 100 years ago. New flooring and white painted walls give the rooms a fresh and spacious feeling. It's a real treasure to see that the school once again will be a place for local children to enjoy.

The building will accommodate 100 students from Riverside School who are part of the WWO's after-school program. In the past, students had walked from Riverside School to their program at the CNIB building on 11A Street, south of McDougall Road. In this new setting, they'll enjoy their after-school time both inside and outside, and they will most likely will be closer to home when the day is done.

Congratulations to Chloe Dussier for her success in repurposing and revitalizing the historic Riverside Bungalow.

## GAMES & PUZZLES

### Guess the Instrument!

1. Dating back at least 50,000 years, this is considered the oldest known musical instrument in the world.
2. This instrument's name comes from the Persian word meaning "three-stringed."
3. This instrument is made up of 88 keys that strike 230 strings.
4. Along with the shamrock, this instrument is the official State emblem of Ireland.
5. This instrument is played with a bow made up of at least 150 individual hairs.
6. The Fender Stratocaster is this kind of instrument.



SCAN THE QR  
CODE FOR THE  
ANSWERS!

## Tree Book Club Update

As in past articles, we are sharing with you what the tree book club has been reading, in case you are interested in reading any of the books on your own.

Over the summer, we read *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf. This was a dense read, packed with details, so it won't be for everyone, but was a fascinating tale of a man who explored the Alps, the Andes, and Siberia around the turn of the 1800s, and was the first to develop the idea of ecological zones - how plants and animals in similar geographies are similar across different parts of the world. His explorations of South America in that time are gripping. Readers interested in the history of science will likely enjoy it.

This fall we read *Barkskins* by Annie Proulx. In some ways similar to *Greenwood*, it was a multigenerational tale of family members involved in logging, but in this case the story begins with the settlement of New France in the 1600s and ends in modern times. It is a long book, but ranges from stories of colonization and Indigenous life, to trading practices from Amsterdam to China, and the destruction of forests in North America and New Zealand. It is also about the differences in the lives of the loggers and those who build fortunes with logging companies, told through the interwoven lives of the descendants of the two initial characters brought to New France as indentured servants. It is often hard to keep track of who is who (there is a family tree at the end), but it's a book that can teach you a lot about our history.

Our current read is *Our Green Heart: The Soul and Science of Forests* by Diana Beresford-Kroeger. This is a bit of an odd book, written by a woman raised in the nature-oriented spirituality of the Celts in Ireland who became a plant scientist, and she writes about plant evolution and trees, as well as our relationship with them, from both those perspectives. It is a quick read, compared to the previous two!

## New Tree Ambassador Program

by the BRCA Tree Committee

Are you interested in learning more about trees, including their pests and diseases? Would you like to help plant more trees in our community? Are you interested in sharing information about trees with others? Do you want to know how to alert the City to take care of their ailing trees? Are you someone who likes to plan community events? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider volunteering to be a tree ambassador!

The City of Calgary is piloting a Community Tree Ambassador program in a small number of communities over the next year or two, with the hope that they can roll it out across the city in the future. Tree ambassadors will learn about trees, communicate about trees with the community, volunteer at tree planting events or educational events, and learn about sending 3-1-1 messages on City trees that need help. The list of opportunities is still being developed. Bridgeland Riverside was chosen as one of the initial four communities, because we have already been doing a lot to help our community trees. We are waiting for BRCA board approval in January. Our tree committee expects it will be supportive, so we are starting to look for ambassadors. Tree ambassadors will get coaching from the City's Parks Activation and Education team, so please consider volunteering - volunteers don't need to be experts.

If you would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact us at [trees@brccalgary.org](mailto:trees@brccalgary.org).



### Word of the Month

*Cynosure*, noun (SIGH-noh-syoor)

A center of attraction or attention.

*The bride was the cynosure of all eyes at the wedding.*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?

Stop by the BRCA digital display TV on Centre Ave to see a rotating slide show of announcements and upcoming events.

We've also included a fun **Artist Spotlight** feature. Send us a photo of your child's artwork (including their first name and age) and we'll put it up on the big screen.

You can email your submission to:  
[hall@brcacalgary.org](mailto:hall@brcacalgary.org)  
or scan the QR code.



Calgary  
Police  
Service

## HOME SECURITY

### #CPSSafetyTips

- ✓ Lock all windows, doors & vehicles
- ✓ Set timers for lights to create the illusion someone is home
- ✓ Keep valuables, such as purses & car keys, away from the front door
- ✓ Create a nightly routine to ensure entry points are locked

## The Dogs and Owners Going Out for Safety Initiative

D.O.G.O.S (Dogs and Owners Going Out for Safety) is a volunteer-run initiative of dog owners who are walking their four-legged friends through the streets of Bridgeland-Riverside, while keeping an eye out for safety.

Our community's dog owners are no strangers to facing all the elements at all times of the day and night and if you've walked around Bridgeland-Riverside you have likely noticed that we have an abundance of dogs! So, we thought: what better population to increase eyes on the street to report concerns that increase safety and beauty in Bridgeland?

The D.O.G.O.S group is regularly briefed with community resources and supports to help efficiently report concerns to the proper avenue. For example, reporting overflowing garbage bins to 3-1-1, reporting prowlers to police or the Community Engagement Team, reporting infrastructure concerns to 3-1-1, and referring individuals in distress to the Alpha House HELP team. The goal of the group is for community members to keep doing something they already do, while keeping an eye out for things that can improve safety, cleanliness, and community well-being.

The group is not exclusive to only dog owners, everyone is welcome. Meetings occur every second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining, please contact [safety@brccalgary.org](mailto:safety@brccalgary.org) or join the Facebook group D.O.G.O.S. BRCA.



# BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

For business classified ad rates contact Great News Media at 403-720-0762 or [sales@greatnewsmedia.ca](mailto:sales@greatnewsmedia.ca)

**OFFICIAL PLUMBING & HEATING:** Small company, low overhead, excellent warranties, and great rates. Specializing in residential service and installs. Services include furnace service and replacement, hot water tank service and replacement, leaks, clogs, gas fitting, and more. Licensed and insured. Why wait? Call today and get it fixed today! Available 24/7, we accept debit/VISA/MasterCard. Call 403-837-4023 or email [info@officialplumbingheating.ca](mailto:info@officialplumbingheating.ca); [www.official-plumbing-heating.ca](http://www.official-plumbing-heating.ca).

**BRIDGELAND MORTGAGE BROKER:** Save a bunch of cash! As a Calgary mortgage broker, I have helped your neighbors navigate their purchase, refinance, and renewal options. If you are looking for expert mortgage advice, excellent rates, many options, and better financing, Call Anita at 403-771-8771 | [anita@anitamortgage.ca](mailto:anita@anitamortgage.ca) | Licensed by Avenue Financial.

**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](http://www.communitymediation.ca), 403-269-2707.

**YOURS TRULY, JOHNNY DRYWALL:** A big thank you to all my neighbours and new friends for a fantastic year so far! If you have any drywall or ceiling repair needs, please call/text Brad at 403-771-5228. Estimates and advice are always free.

## Cats, Canines, & Critters of Calgary



Bear, Palliser



Buster, Hamptons



Lizzy, Huntington Hills



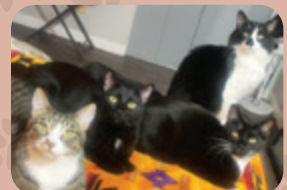
Mirabella, Lower Mount Royal



Poupie, Deer Run



Toby, Douglasdale



Luka, Kiba, Shinji, and Von, Shawnessy

To have your pet featured, email [news@mycalgary.com](mailto:news@mycalgary.com)

Calgary  
Police  
Service

## OPERATION COLD START

### #CPSSafetyTips

- ❄️ Use a **remote starter** or **stay with your vehicle**
- ❄️ **Never** leave your keys inside your vehicle
- ❄️ Use a **steering wheel lock**
- ❄️ **Always** keep your vehicle locked
- ❄️ Don't leave **pets** or **children** unattended

Calgary  
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Service

## BUY & SELL

### #CPSSafetyTips

- 🛒 Meet in a **public place**
- 🛒 Bring a **friend or family member**
- 🛒 **Verify** the buyer's identity
- 🛒 **Avoid cash transactions**, especially with high-value items
- 🛒 Use a **safe exchange zone**, like district office parking lots

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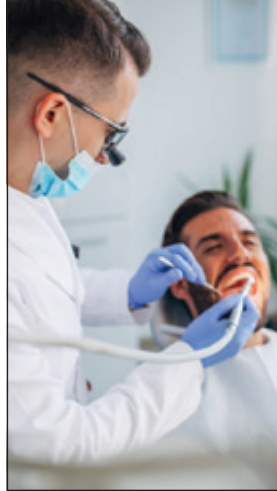
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