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BRCA
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SAFE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Creating a safer community through
building strong community connections

**We meet on the
first Tuesday of each month
(except July & August)**

**Tuesday, Sep 1
7:00 PM
BRCA Hall
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safecommunity@brcacalgary.org

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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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alex MacWilliam

On a warm Thursday evening in late July, the BRCA held a very successful Pub Night in the Community Hall. Friends and neighbours mingled and chatted over beverages, enjoying the beautiful summer weather. We were very pleased with the turnout and the feedback we received from those in attendance. Many thanks go to BRCA Director Tony Imbrogno and the many volunteers who made this event possible. I also want to thank the businesses who supported the Pub Night with donations.

In light of the success of Pub Night, we decided to repeat this event on September 3 and again on October 1 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Both Pub Nights will coincide with the Thursday BRCA Farmers' Market, so when you are finished shopping for the great crafts and food products, finish off your day with a refreshing beverage and great conversation with your neighbours.

The Pub Nights are open to BRCA members and memberships are available at the door. Membership continues to be free, but donations are gratefully accepted. We hope to see you there.

By way of update, by the time this issue of the newsletter reaches you, you will likely have noticed that exterior work has commenced on the redevelopment of the Bridgeland Place tower on McDougall Court. Built in 1971, this City-owned building is being redeveloped by Calgary Housing, a subsidiary of the City. The structure was decommissioned and vacated in 2023 and has been undergoing a complete renovation of its interior space. This new phase of the project will impact surrounding residents and businesses as there will be increased construction-related traffic. Calgary Housing provides updates to the BRCA and we will pass them on through our social media and in this newsletter. Further information is also available on the Calgary Housing website.



Bridgeland Place Tower Redevelopment Update

by Adam Toy, Calgary Housing

Bridgeland Place is getting ready for a glow-up as work begins to replace and improve the exterior of the tower.

Previously, the tower saw interior demolition and abatement, stripping the interior back to the concrete structure. Now, the exterior envelope – including cladding and windows – is being removed and replaced to help make the entire building more weather-resistant and energy efficient.

That work began on the week of August 17. During that time, Calgarians in the area can expect to see increased construction-related traffic along 7A Street NE, McDougall Road NE and McDougall Court NE, with some temporary lane closures. As with any active construction site, access to the tower and grounds will be restricted for safety reasons.

Updated renderings showing the intended design were also released over the summer.

Redevelopment of Bridgeland Place Tower is anticipated to be completed in 2028.

More information can be found at calgary-housing.org.



An updated rendering of the intended exterior design of Bridgeland Place Tower

Traffic Safety: Sharing Our Streets

by Ashley de Nooij, BRCA Safe Community Committee

With school bells ringing again and backpacks making their annual comeback, our neighbourhood streets are about to get a whole lot busier. It's the perfect time for all of us to refresh our traffic safety habits. Drivers, remember to slow down and pay close attention in playground zones, where excited students can appear faster than a missed school bus. Pedestrians, make eye contact before crossing whenever possible, take out your headphones and be aware of your surroundings. We're fortunate to have an excellent network of bike paths throughout our community, so let's use them whenever we can. A little patience and awareness from everyone help keep our streets safe and welcoming for all.

While the weather might be beautiful right now, and I know none of us really want to think about it, winter will be here before we know it. Whether it's sunshine, rain, snow, or that classic Alberta mix of all three in the same day, road conditions can change quickly. As the seasons shift, remember to brush the snow and ice off your entire vehicle, not just the windshield. Slow down if roads are slick and keep an eye out for icy patches that can catch anyone off guard. No matter the weather, staying alert and adjusting to conditions helps keep drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians safe year-round.

At the end of the day, sharing our streets comes down to being patient, predictable, and paying attention. Drivers can help by putting distractions away, checking carefully before turning or opening vehicle doors, and giving cyclists plenty of space when passing. Cyclists should follow traffic signals, use lights and reflectors when visibility is reduced, and signal their intentions whenever possible. Pedestrians should use designated crossings and stay alert by reducing distractions, putting phones and headphones away, especially when crossing at busy intersections.

Whether you're walking, rolling, riding, or driving, a little courtesy goes a long way. By looking out for one another we can keep our community safe, connected, and enjoyable for everyone throughout the year.

On every trip, assume others may make errors and compensate with patience. Shared responsibility fosters a culture where everyone arrives safely. A little courtesy goes a long way, and a little patience goes even farther.

Take your time, share the road, and remember we're all neighbours first.

Find out more about the City of Calgary's pedestrian safety tips, traffic safety programs, and Safer Mobility Plan at calgary.ca/roads/safety/pedestrians, and calgary.ca/roads/safety.

Community Safety Contacts

- 9-1-1 Emergency Services (For emergencies or crimes in progress).
- 403-266-1234 Calgary Police Non-Emergency Line.
- 3-1-1 City of Calgary (Report graffiti or vandalism), or calgary.ca/bylaws/graffiti-reporting-reporting-removing.
- 800-222-8477 Crime Stoppers Anonymous Tips Line, or p3tips.com/tipform.aspx.
- 2-1-1 Mental Health Support.

The BRCA Safe Community Committee exists to enhance the safety, security, and well-being of Bridgeland residents through collaboration, community connection, and proactive initiatives. We believe the safest communities are those where all members feel welcome and included, supported by a strong sense of belonging, active engagement, and regular interaction with one another. If you are interested in contributing to the safety of Bridgeland please contact us at safecommunity@BRCACalgary.org, or join us for our monthly meetings. We meet at 7:00 pm at the BRCA Hall Lantern Room the first Tuesday of each month.



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Calgary General Hospital and the City: A Stroll through Murdoch Park

by Deb Lee, BRCA Heritage, CGH Project

I had the opportunity to lead a walk for Historic Calgary Week on Thursday, July 30. The title was “Calgary General Hospital: the City and the Hospital.” This topic provided the impetus to delve into the connection between the City of Calgary and the Calgary General Hospital (CGH, also known as “the General”), which served Calgarians from our community for 88 years. Here’s a sampling of what I learned.

For the first 28 years of the CGH’s existence (1890 to 1918), it was owned and operated by a Board made up of physicians and prominent citizens of Calgary. While they did receive grants from both the City and the Province (after 1905), much of the money to run the hospital came from subscribers, donations, and payment for hospital services. By the 1910s, unpaid hospital bills had left the Hospital Board with unsustainable debt.

In 1918, following a successful grassroots campaign, the Alberta government passed the Hospitals Municipalization Act, transferring ownership of hospitals to local governments. As a result, CGH became publicly funded through municipal taxation and was made universally accessible. Financial and operational responsibility rested with City Council. After several years, however, governance shifted to a separate hospital board composed of the Mayor, several Aldermen, and appointed community representatives.

Decisions about hospital funding were contentious even in those early years, and City Council often turned to plebiscites to seek guidance from local ratepayers. One notable vote in the 1940s asked residents whether a new hospital should be built, and where CGH number four should be located. The outcome significantly expanded the hospital’s footprint in our community and culminated in the grand opening of the new 650-bed facility in 1953.

Around the same time, Mayor Don McKay travelled to Ottawa to interview a prospective Director of Nursing. The trip resulted in the recruitment of the eminent Gertrude M. Hall, whose influence would reshape nursing education at “the General”. Hall moved the program away from the traditional apprenticeship model, in which student nurses provided much of the hospital’s workforce, toward a more education-focused approach that emphasized professional development and clinical excellence.

By the late 1950s, the benefits of these reforms were becoming apparent. However, City Council directed the Hospital Board to reduce expenditures, leading to the elimination of numerous nursing positions. Hall vehemently opposed the decision and, along with her Assistant Director, submitted her resignation. Together, they presided over one final nursing graduation ceremony. At its conclusion, Hall suffered a fatal cardiac event, bringing a dramatic and deeply poignant end to a distinguished tenure that left an enduring legacy at CGH.

Strong ties between the City and CGH were evident in their shared services. Paycheques for the thousands of hospital employees came from the City Finance Department. Union representation and other programs, such as the City’s early Costco membership, were shared with CGH staff.

In the 1970’s, when ownership of the Holy Cross Hospital was assumed by the provincial government, there was some consideration that “the General” should do the same. Mayor Rod Sykes made it clear that CGH would remain a city-owned hospital. More stories of the City’s strong connection with the hospital could be told, but space doesn’t allow.

In 1994, Mayor Al Duerr and Aldermen John Schmal and Ray Clark were city representatives on the CGH Board when the Alberta Government passed the Regional Health Authorities Act. This Act abolished 200 Hospital Boards throughout the province, including CGH, and resulted in 17 new Regional Boards under provincial control.

During the City’s long ownership of “the General” (1918 to 1994), the hospital grew to nearly 1,000 beds at its peak, witnessed the birth of thousands of Calgarians, educated and employed generations of healthcare professionals, and earned a well-deserved reputation for innovation, compassionate care, and excellence. It is a Calgary legacy worthy of both pride and celebration.

One or more repeats of this informative walk around Murdoch Park will be happening in September. Keep an eye out for details.



A Year Later, Our 75th Birthday Geocache Keeps the Adventure Going!

by Susan Mulholland, BRCA Board Director

When Bridgeland-Riverside celebrated its 75th birthday last year, we marked the occasion with something a little different: something to encourage people to get outside, explore the neighbourhood, and discover a few hidden gems along the way.

The answer? A geocache!

(If you've never tried geocaching, think of it as a modern-day treasure hunt. Using a free app and your phone's GPS, you search for cleverly hidden containers placed by fellow adventurers. It's fun, family-friendly, and a great excuse to stretch your legs while seeing familiar places from a new perspective. Getting started is super easy: download the free geocaching app, choose a nearby cache, follow the GPS, search carefully, sign the logbook when you find it, and log your discovery online).

One year later, our "It's Our 75th Birthday!" geocache has become much more than a birthday celebration. It's been found by dozens of people from near and far, creating a collection of interesting stories.

Seasoned treasure hunters, families with children, cyclists, dog walkers, motorcyclists, and even visitors from Vancouver and Columbus, Ohio, visited the cache. Some stopped by after visiting the Calgary Zoo, others at dawn before heading to work downtown, during a bike ride, or while exploring the city on vacation. One visitor celebrated a 60th birthday with a bike ride through Bridgeland, while a few others introduced friends to geocaching for the very first time.

The cache has welcomed seven first-time geocachers, with several proudly writing, "Thanks for my first find!" Others shared how much fun they had introducing friends or children to the hobby. But not everyone found it on their first try. One determined visitor admitted they were "very close" but couldn't quite locate the cache. That's part of the magic of geocaching. Sometimes the hunt is just as rewarding as the discovery.

Of course, every treasure hunt comes with memorable moments. Adventurers warned others about spider webs, searched after dark with only a hint guiding them, admired the view after a summer rain, and laughed over colourful usernames like peanutbutterbreadandjam,

FloatinOtters, One Bad Ant, and ibenthere. Many cachers appreciated the "spectacular city views" as well as the 50-foot Eagle's Nest mural by Rachel Ziriada and Mikhail Miller (Nasarimba), writing "rad eagle head" and "sweet eagle head dude!" One cacher summed it all up in two words: "Absolute cinema!"

If you haven't discovered our geocache yet, why not make it your next outing and find some awesome views, a colourful eagle's head, and maybe more? Happy hunting, and here's to many more adventures in Bridgeland-Riverside. "Cache" you later!



Getting Your Trees Ready for Winter

by BRCA Beautification Committee, Tree Ambassadors

It's September, and less daylight forewarns of the coming winter. Our trees benefit from our assistance in readying them for the cold, dry prairie winds. Trees need deep, thorough watering until freeze-up. Adding mulch to the area under the tree helps insulate roots, preventing premature thawing during Chinooks. Be sure to leave a minimum perimeter of 10 cm from the trunk of the tree to the mulch ring. This prevents trunk/bark rotting and tree death. New trees may also benefit from wrapping of the trunk with burlap.

After October 1, prune damaged, diseased or dead tree branches. Note that it is illegal to prune Elm trees before October 1 or after March 31. This is to prevent Dutch Elm Disease.

Check the City of Calgary link below for more information and tips for caring and pruning trees in the fall: calgary.ca/property-owners/tree-care

No Matter the Time of Year, You can Help Save Trees by Training Your Dog to Pee on a Post.

Dog urine breaks down a tree's protective bark, cutting off the nutrients travelling from the roots up the tree. Urine damage causes trees to die from the top down. As you walk around our community, you can see evidence of this damage. However, with your help, we will see how a small change can make a big difference!

Lights Out for Fall Bird Migration

by Laurie Alisat, BRCA Beautification Committee

In Calgary, late summer heralds the beginning of bird's fall migration. Fall migration is busier than spring migration, as young birds are making their first southbound flight. With the increased number of birds in flight, and many being new at migration, more birds are at risk of injury or death.

Our artificial lights, both outdoor and indoor, pull birds off their migration routes, especially young birds. They are drawn to artificial lights, sometimes flying around repeatedly until they are exhausted. This also places them in closer proximity to buildings and at greater risk of colliding with unmarked windows. Most birds do not survive window collisions. Even if they survive impact, when vulnerable, injured birds fall to the ground, they fall prey to predators like roaming cats, magpies, and crows.

Between window collisions, including on low-rise housing and low-rise buildings, and roaming cats, billions of birds are killed each year in North America alone.

We can all help protect birds, who add to and protect our food supply and well-being, by effectively treating our glass, keeping cats indoors or in catios, and turning our lights out, both inside and outside, between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am from now until November.

Learn more about what you can do to help make Bridgeland-Riverside more bird-friendly at:

birdfriendlycalgary.ca/, and calgary.ca/parks/world-migratory-bird-day.html.



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*by Gordon M Christie, BRCA member and longtime
Bridgeland-Riverside resident*

The number of people aged 60 years or over has more than doubled, from around 541 million in 1995 to 1.2 billion in 2025. It is projected to reach 2.1 billion by 2050. By 2080, persons 65 or older will outnumber children under 18. Global life expectancy reached 73.5 years in 2025, an increase of 8.6 years since 1995.



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Seniors' Day has been celebrated in Bridgeland since October 1, 2015, when the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association and the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, Calgary Area Council held their first free luncheon at the Community Hall for Bridgeland Seniors. Since 2019, the City of Calgary has flown the United Nations International Day of Older Persons flag at its Municipal Plaza Community flagpole on October 1, and Calgary's Mayor Naheed Nenshi first proclaimed United Nations International Day of Older Persons on October 1, 2020.

This year's free Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, October 5, at the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association Hall.

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Community Social Worker Twyla Moon at
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Learn More At:

calgary.ca/communities/grant-programs





BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE Seniors Fall Yoga

CLASS SCHEDULE

All classes take place at the **downtowns BRCA Hall**
(917 Centre Ave NE). Classes this fall are taught by Viada
Teshchenko. Class size is limited to 20 participants. Registration
for free classes is limited to 1 per person.

MONDAY
10 - 11 AM - Senior Chair Yoga (Beginner)
September 14 - October 26 | No Class Oct 5 | Free

WEDNESDAY
1:30 - 2:30 PM - Senior Chair Yoga (Advanced)
September 16 - October 21 | Free

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!

REGISTER ONLINE AT BRCACALGARY.ORG

You can also register, or ask to be put on a waitlist for a 2nd free
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Join instructor Whitney Hoiberg this
fall! Details, dates and registration
info coming soon

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Seniors GAMES Days

BRCA Seniors Games Days is back!
Join us Wednesdays 1-2pm
BRCA Hall - upstairs Lantern room

Sept 9 * Sept 23
Oct 7 * Oct 21

No need to register, just show up!
Play cards and board games, bring your own too.
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www.brcacalgary.org
Email: Programs@brcacalgary.org



BRCA SENIOR Art Program

6 - WEEK ART PROGRAM

Join us **Fridays 1:00-2:30pm**
SEPT 11, 18, OCT 2, 9, 16, 23
(No class Sept 25)
Instructor: Whitney Hoiberg

This class will explore six different mediums over the
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Email: programs@brcacalgary.org
Phone: 403-263-5755

BRCA Hall - 917 Centre Ave NE
www.brcacalgary.org

Growing Community, One Garden Bed at a Time: The Bishop's Manor Story

By Smriti Arora

When the community-led initiative focused on food solidarity, sustainability, and empowerment that I co-founded in Calgary set out to bring community food growing to Bishop's Manor in Bridgeland this year, we were not just planting vegetables. We were testing an idea: that affordable housing sites, often overlooked in the conversation about urban agriculture, can become some of the most powerful places for growing food, building relationships, and supporting mental wellbeing.

On June 20 of this year, we launched our Bishop's Manor pilot with a Neighbour Day event that brought residents, volunteers, and partners together to break ground on a new kind of community space. It was a full day of activity: a poster and volunteer sign-up drive, hands-on planting, and conversations with residents about what they wanted from a shared growing space. The turnout told us everything we needed to know about the appetite for this work in the Bridgeland-Riverside neighbourhood.

Since then, we have kept building. Our worm composting workshop series with Karuna Compost kicked off with a strong first session that drew residents of all ages, from children to elders, on a beautiful afternoon. Composting isn't just a waste diversion strategy for us. It is a way of teaching residents to close the loop on their own food systems, turning kitchen scraps into the soil that feeds next season's harvest.

At the centre of the Bishop's Manor pilot are our cold frames, simple season extension structures that let growers start earlier in spring and keep harvesting later into fall. We are focusing on season extension infrastructure because it directly answers the biggest barrier to growing food in Calgary and area: our climate. With a frost-free window that can run as short as 100 to 120 days, and with late spring frosts and early fall freezes a regular occurrence, traditional open air garden beds only give residents a narrow slice of the year to grow anything at all. A cold frame changes that math. By trapping solar heat and buffering plants from wind and frost, it can add several weeks of growing time on both ends of the season, which means more food, more

consistently, from the same small plot. For households already stretched by the cost of living, that extra stretch of growing time is not a nice-to-have. It is what turns a hobby garden into a meaningful contribution to a family's food supply, and it is why we see season extension as core infrastructure, not an add-on, for any urban growing site in this climate.

None of this happens without partners who believe in the model. Onward Homes opened the door to Bishop's Manor as a housing partner, and other organizations have contributed expertise, materials, and encouragement along the way. The Calgary Foundation's Neighbour Grant helped make the Bishop's Manor launch possible, and we are grateful for their early confidence in this work.

But Bishop's Manor was always meant to be a beginning, not an endpoint. Our long-term vision is to replicate this model across other affordable housing sites throughout Calgary, starting with a proposed installation at Alice Bisset. We are pursuing funding through Alberta's Community Initiatives Program and other partners to make that expansion possible.

At its heart, this work is about food sovereignty: giving residents real agency over where their food comes from, not just access to a garden plot. It is also, unmistakably, about mental health. There is something restorative about kneeling in soil, watching a seed become a meal, and doing that alongside neighbours who share the same stretch of hallway or courtyard. In a city where affordable housing residents often face isolation, a shared garden bed can become a shared sense of belonging.

Bishop's Manor showed us that when you give a community the skills and tools, from even something as modest as a cold frame and a bin of worms, they will build something far bigger than a garden. We're excited to keep growing.



Bridgeland-Riverside neighbours at a Worm Composting workshop at Bishop's Manor, August 2026

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



MP Calgary Confederation

Corey Hogan, MP

207-1717 10th St NW

Calgary, AB T2M 4S2

☎ 403-410-2121

✉ corey.hogan@parl.gc.ca

This summer has been marked by Calgary receiving federal dollars for two exciting projects: the Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary and Contemporary Calgary. I was proud to take part in both announcements, which demonstrate the federal infrastructure investments being made in Alberta.

One of the ways we strengthen communities is by investing in sport. Creating more opportunities for Calgarians to play, train, and proudly wear the maple leaf on the world stage brings us together and inspires all generations.

To that end, I was proud to have advocated for federal funding to come to the University of Calgary's Olympic Oval, which received up to \$26 million through the Build Communities Strong Fund. This investment will support the rehabilitation and modernization of the Oval—a legendary facility that hosted the 1988 Olympic Winter Games and remains home to the fastest ice in the world. It has nurtured generations of Olympic medallists and world-record holders, and this funding secures its long-term operation and accessibility for years to come. More than an elite training centre, the Oval is a community hub that keeps Calgary's reputation as a world-class sporting city strong.

Contemporary Calgary received up to \$40 million through the Build Communities Strong Fund. This investment will transform our historic Centennial Planetarium—home to Contemporary Calgary—into one of Canada's leading destinations for contemporary art, education, and community gathering. Expanding public access to the arts, creating a new gallery, education spaces, and revitalizing Calgary's Downtown West End, all while preserving one of our city's most recognizable landmarks through adaptive reuse.

Projects such as these enhance connectivity in our community and drive economic growth. Infrastructure is the foundation of healthy and prosperous communities, and of a strong Canada.

From our ice to our galleries, these investments will Build Calgary Strong.

I am honoured to be your MP,

Corey Hogan

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