

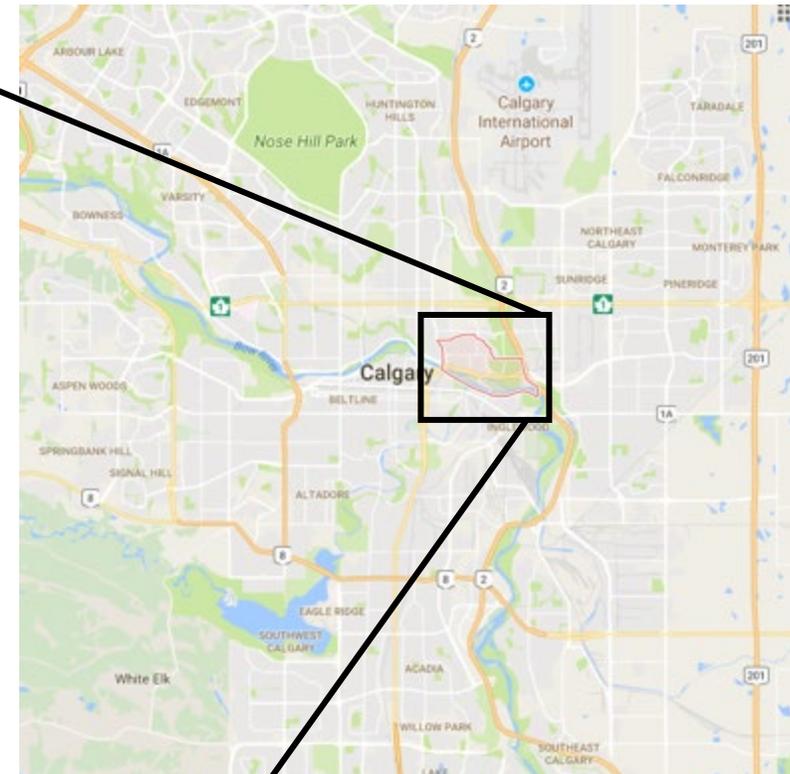
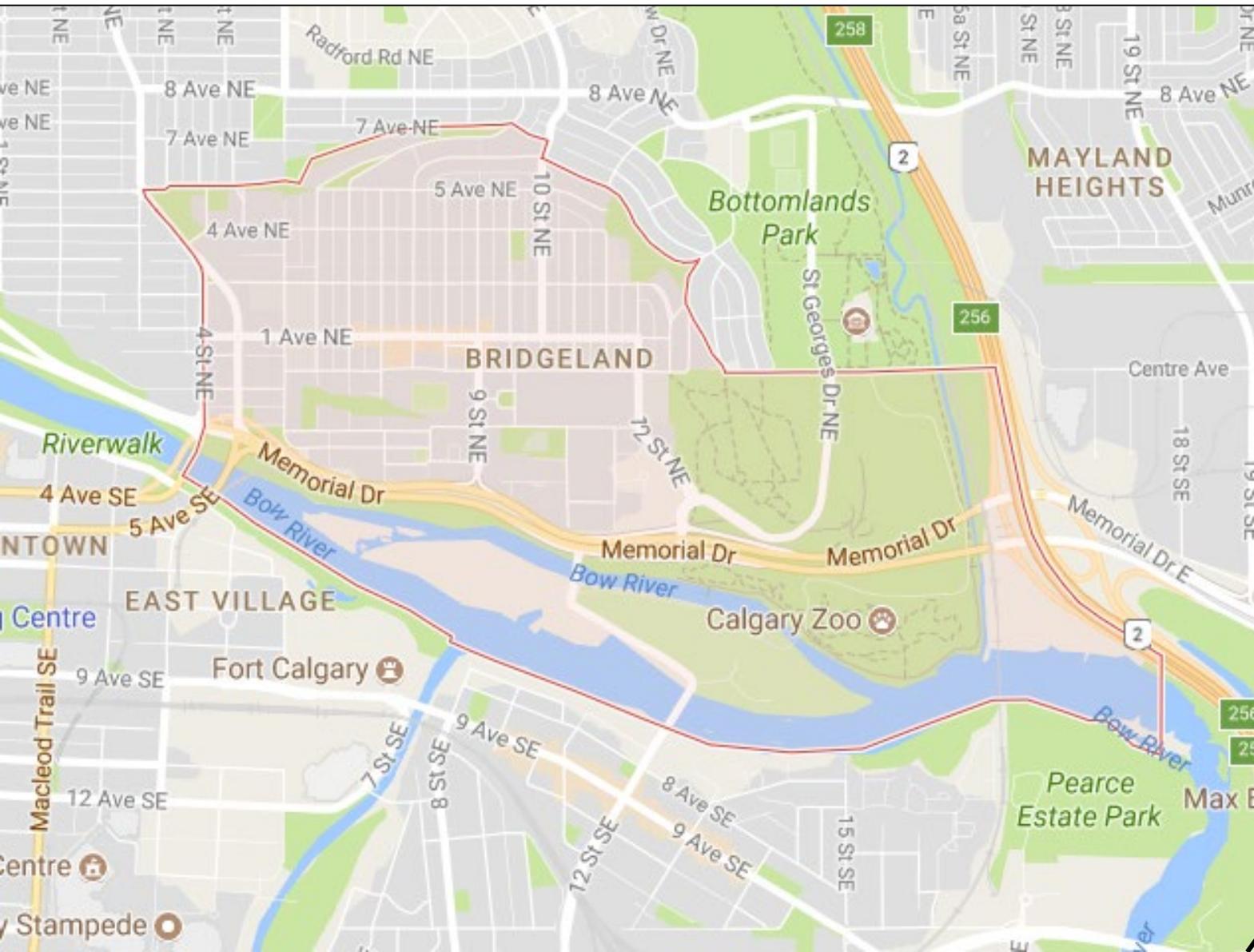
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF 100+ year old BRIDGELAND - RIVERSIDE

*February 24, 2018  
BRCA Board presentation*

*“From a working class district to a bustling inner-city neighbourhood...”*

*-Douglas Stinson*

# BRIDGELAND - RIVERSIDE



*A community just across the river from the downtown and close to major roadways such as Deerfoot Trail, Memorial Drive and Edmonton Trail*

# EARLY DAYS OF BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE

## Pre Settlement

First Nations' Encampment Pre 1800s



1890

## Riverside aka Germantown

Immigrants settle the area – esp. Germans from Russia

1900

Ukrainian & Italian immigrants move to the area

1914

Beginning of WW1 ended the immigration & building boom

## Little Italy

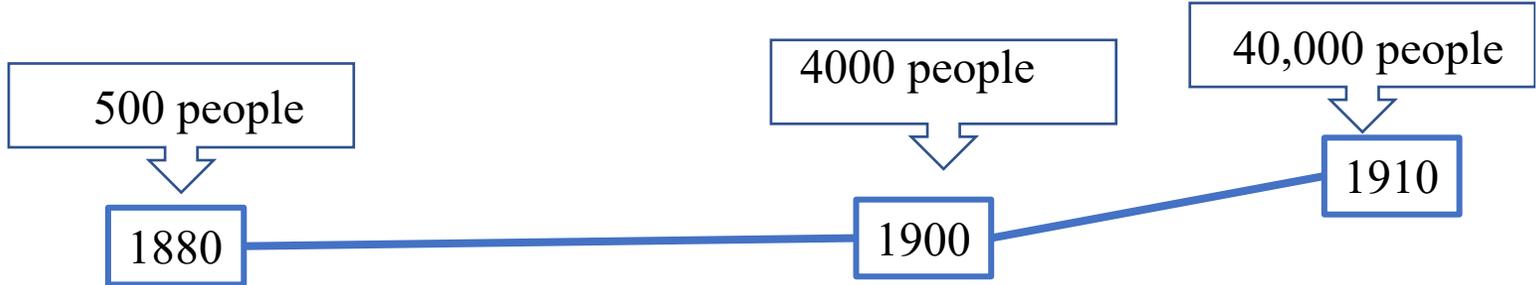
## Officially Bridgeland-Riverside

Bridgeland-Riverside Athletic Association Founded



Looking south-west from the north bank of the Bow River, c. 1881.

## Corresponding Calgary Population Booms



# EVOLUTION OF BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE

1950's

Renewed Immigration especially from Italy

1960's



1966 Langevin School burns down and is rebuilt in Art Deco style



1970's

Expropriation of homes & businesses 7A-9A St between Centre -1Ave to build hospital parking lot

East Memorial Drive project – TCH cut back, 6 lanes of traffic separate Riverside from Bow River  
C Train project – Bridgeland stn built

Land expropriated for 4 Ave flyover & to create 5<sup>th</sup> Ave flyover & Edmonton Tr

1980's

First ARP completed



2 New Medical buildings built on 1Ave

Calgary General Hospital expands

# EVOLUTION OF BRIDGELAND - RIVERSIDE

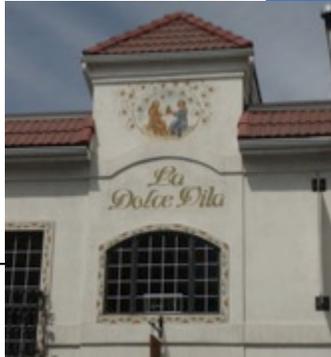
1990's

2000

2005

2010

2015



2<sup>nd</sup> ARP completed – highlighted European Village theme

Prov govt cost cutting & decision to close hospitals including CGH

City develops land – The Bridges - 3 phases

Loss of outdoor pool, skating rink, 2 baseball fields, community hall

New community centre opened

Phase 1 condo's open

2013 Flood affects Riverside area

'14 Snowtember affects city and Bridgeland trees

Collaborative project to develop Riverside Seniors Park

CGH imploded Oct 4, 1998

2008 economic downturn stalls Bridges

Collaborative project to save & establish Tom Campbell Hill



# Recognized City Historic Resources in Bridgeland - Riverside – residences



Calgary



Resource Name – built 1911-12	
1	Maunch Residence 215 7A St
2	McDowell Duplex 219/ 221 7A St
3	Hilderman Residence 113 7A St
4	Rothermal Residence 105 7 St
5	George Befus Residence 102 7 St
6	Alexander Befus residence 104 7St
7	Nurses Residence Gen Hospital –moved fr 8 St- now 845 McPherson Rd
8	Wiggins Duplex 412 & 414 8 St
9	John K Kaiser Residence 34 6 St



# Recognized Historic Resources in Bridgeland-Riverside - to 2017



Calgary



	Resource Name	Year of Construction
10	Moravian Church 6A St @ Centre Ave	1912
11	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 7 St	1912
12	<b>Immanuel Church</b> 43 4 St	1903
13	<b>St Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church</b>	1977
14	<i>Ukrainian Catholic Church</i>	1954
15	Riverside Bungalow No 2 2Ave	1920
16	Bridgeland School 2Ave @11A St	1921
17	Poffenroth /DeWaal Block 4 St @ Meredith	1910
18	Cannibale Block 1 Ave @ 7A St	1912
19	Gallelli Block 212 4 St	1912
20	Morasch Block 644 1Ave	1911
21	Gerlitz block 2 Ave @ 6A St	1912
22	Shuler Block 1Ave @ 10 St	1912

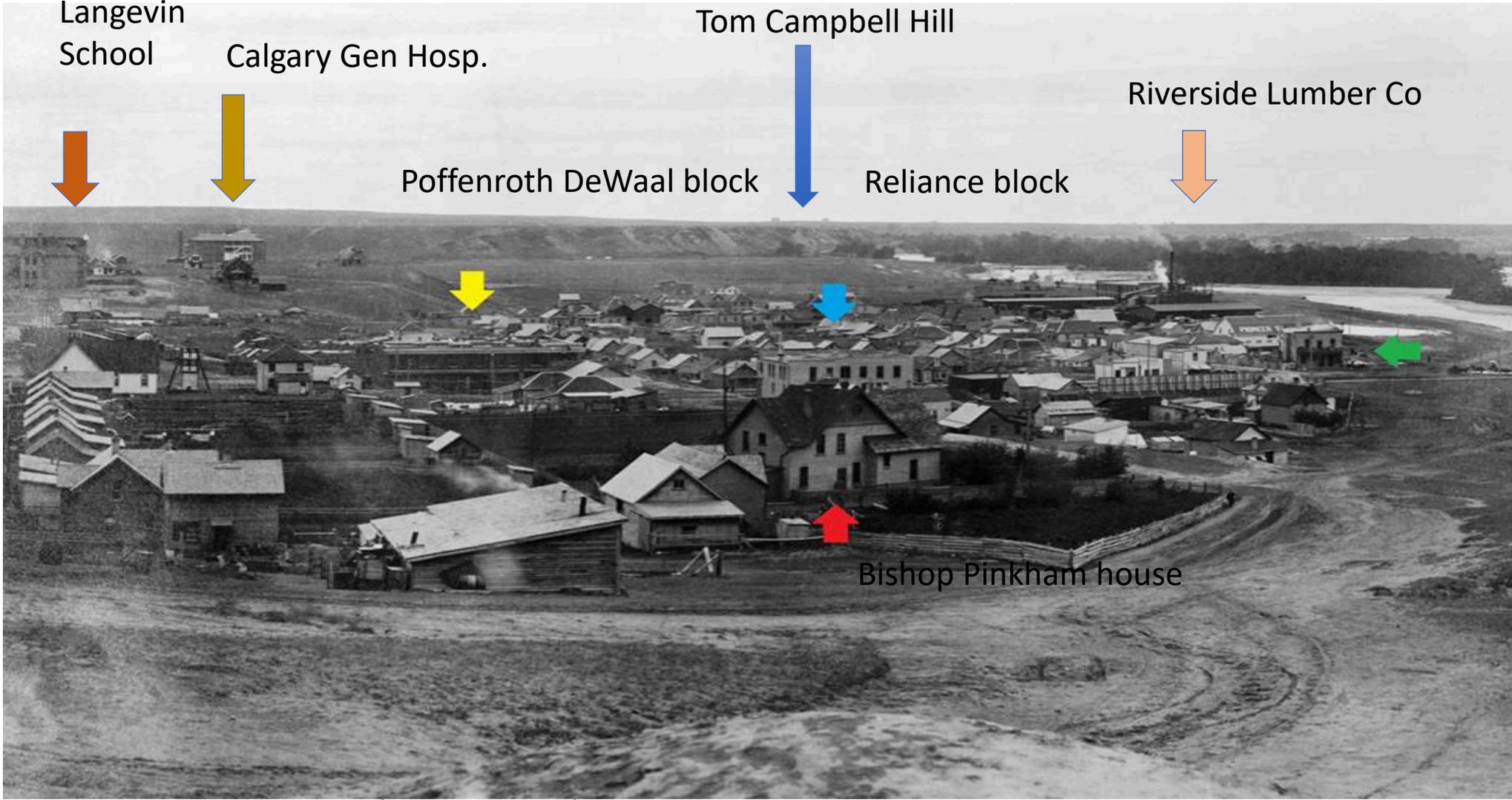


# Recognized Historic Resources in Bridgeland-Riverside - to 2017

	Resource Name	Year of Construction
23	<b>Armour/ Reliance Block</b>	1910
24	<b>Roma Grocery</b>	1910
25	Calgary&Edmonton Railway Bridge (Bow R)	1925
26	Langevin Bridge - renamed Reconciliation '17	1910
27	Calgary Zoo Conservatory – Tropical aviary	1962
28	Calgary Zoo - Dinny the Dinosaur	1935
29	<b>Original Riverside Ironworks</b>	1913
30	Fire Hall No 4 (6A St)	1909
31	Bridgeland / Riverside Vacant Lot Garden	1930
32	8 Street NE Boulevards	1942
33	CPR Western Irrigation Headworks	1912
34	St Georges' Island Bridge – demolished 2017	1908



# Two unique and separate communities – Riverside along 4 St near Bow River



Circa 1914....Looking eastward

# ..... Two unique communities – Riverside – annexed 1910

**Riverside Hotel** – along Riverside Blvd close to Langevin Bridge and Bow River. Trashed during 1917 riots due to anti German sentiment. Converted to apartment building, demolished in late ‘60’s



**Riverside Ironworks** – prosperous foundry located between Meredith and Riverside Blvd - purchased by Dominion Bridge and later moved to Ramsey (some buildings still present)

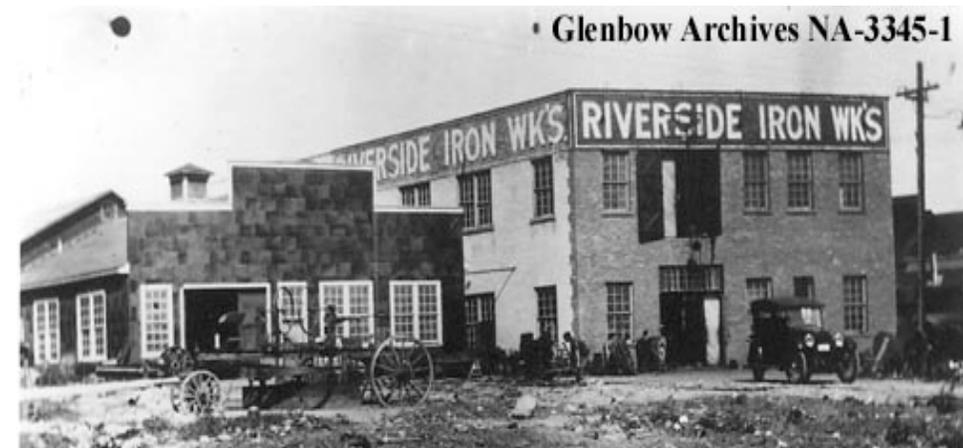
**Riverside Laundry** - 1913 picture.  
Located between 1 Ave & Marsh Rd ,east of 4 St. Smokestack was a landmark



Glenbow Archives NC-20-7



Glenbow Archives NA-1840-1



Glenbow Archives NA-3345-1

# ..... Two unique separate communities – still existing in Riverside

**Armour and Reliance Buildings** – built 1910 and 1913 with commercial on the main floor (including Riverside Hardware, Valentine Confectionary, etc). and 2 floors of apartments upstairs. Became Buds Used Furniture, now owned by city and awaiting redevelopment

**Poffenroth –DeWaal Block** - built in 1910, a 2 storey building with commercial on main floor and apartments upstairs. Renovated in early 2000's – now active businesses, apartments & restaurant

**Sligsby Block** – originally a department store that became Alberta Furniture, one of three furniture stores owed by Jack Eisenberg, Renamed to Jacques furniture and is now Radius sales centre (note round sign above)

**Lukes Drug Store** – opened 1951, family owned business that has evolved with the times.

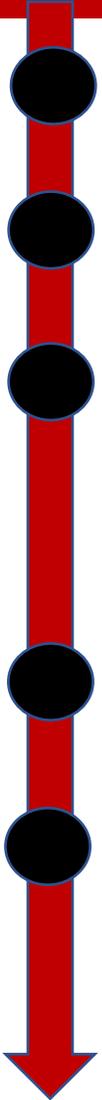


Calgary





# Two unique communities – Bridgeland - annexed 1907

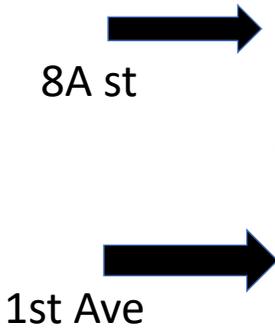


● Shuler Grocery – now Bridgeland Market 1 Ave at 10 St

● Italian Centre 1 Ave at 7a St

● 1 Ave between 7A and 8A St

Numerous buildings along south side of 1 Ave- housing Co-op Grocery, pharmacy, meat shop, hardware, several with apartments above - all were demolished to make way for expansion of large CGH parking lot



# Bridges

## First Langevin Bridge built 1888

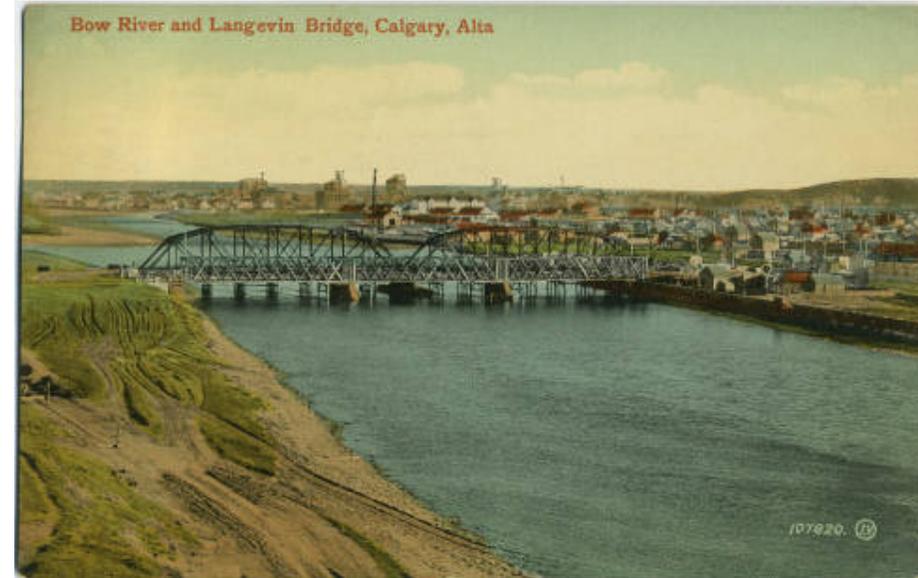
Replaced a ferry crossing, connecting north side communities to south.  
Also served as a major transportation route to north (Edmonton)  
Built with funding from Federal government- part of Northwest territory, authorized by and named for HectorLouis Langevin, Min. of Public Works  
Heavily used wooden structure that deteriorated over time.

## Second Langevin Bridge opened in 1910

*Made from steel trusses – decision to keep Langevin name*

Funded by the new Alberta Provincial government with streetcar tracks added soon after opening

In 2003 LED light display added with CMLC East Village \$\$  
Jan'17 City council decision to change name to Reconciliation due to Hector Langevin's supposed role as architect of residential schools tragedy



## Langevin East Bridge opened in early '70's

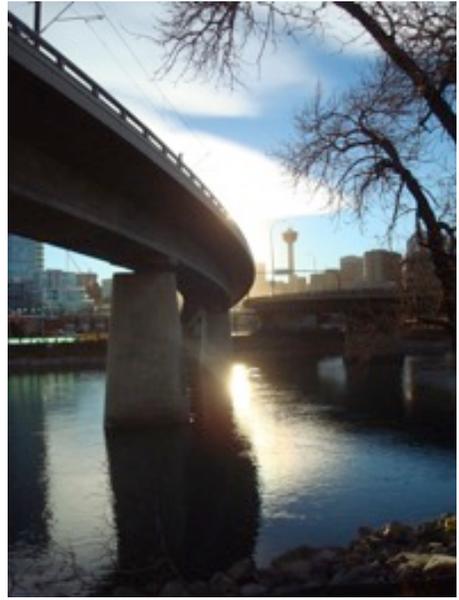
Concrete flyover heading north over river from 5 Ave to cross the Bow River onto newly built Edmonton trail and expanded Memorial Drive

## 4th Ave flyover opened in early '70's

Concrete flyover heading southwestward from Memorial Dr to cross Bow River into the downtown

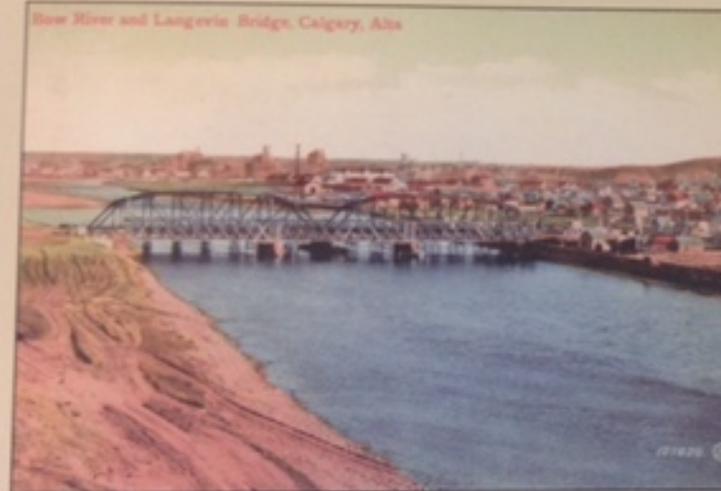
## C Train bridge opened in 1980's

Concrete flyover heading southward carrying C Train over Bow River from Memorial Dive into downtown



A ceremony was held in 2014 - attended by Mayor Nenshi & BRCA President Wouts - to recognize the importance of Langevin Bridge in the growth and development of Calgary. The plaque was never mounted and in Jan'17 City Council voted to change the name of the bridge in response to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission report.

## ≡ Langevin Bridge ≡



A hand-tinted postcard showing the old (in front) and new Langevin Bridges, looking east. Image circa 1910.

Courtesy of the Calgary Public Library, Community Heritage and Family History Collection, PC 507

The Langevin Bridge, built in 1910, was one of three crossings of the Bow River instrumental in the northward expansion of Calgary during the pre-World War One boom. It was built to extend the newly inaugurated street railway system to the new subdivision of Tuxedo Park further up the Calgary and Edmonton Trail (now Edmonton Trail). This bridge replaced an earlier 1888 bridge which had in turn replaced the primary ferry crossing of the Bow River that dated from 1883. Even before that, this location was an ancient river crossing on the "Old North Trail", an important aboriginal transportation corridor. When Fort Calgary was established in 1875, a section of the Old North Trail became Macleod Trail, the main supply route south to Fort Macleod and beyond to Fort Benton in Montana. The trail continued north as the "Calgary and Edmonton Trail" and beyond Edmonton as the Athabasca Trail. The Langevin Bridge remained part of the main highway route north of Calgary until the construction of the Deerfoot Trail in the late 1960s. The 1888 and 1910 bridges were named for Hector Langevin, the federal Minister of Public Works. This is one of four Calgary bridges designed as Parker Camelback through-truss bridges, made of riveted steel. The style is distinguished by a framework of structural elements in a triangular arrangement connected at the top, looking like a camel's back in profile.

Plaque placed by the Calgary Heritage Authority, 2014

**“One of Calgary's original red-light districts, home to several brothels in early days.”**

## WHY?

- Proximity of the local railway made this a popular destination for local men.
- May single men and high demand for the favour of women
- Pre annexation (1907& 1910) the brothel area was beyond city limits, under NWMP control and they did not aggressively pursue this.



## Numerous complaints.

- In 1907 a group of disgruntled Calgarians appeared before city council with complaints, including: *"respectable citizens were frequently annoyed by men forcing their way into their homes looking for 'women of ill-fame.'*"

## Annexation

- The area was allowed to operated undisturbed until it was annexed by the City in 1907 (Bridgeland) and 1910 (Riverside) when the area came under City Police control.
- Under duress, "the women from across Langevin Bridge" relocated to the Nose Creek valley, outside city boundaries.

## HOW ?

did this early reputation colour how others viewed the growing blue collar community of Riverside over the years?

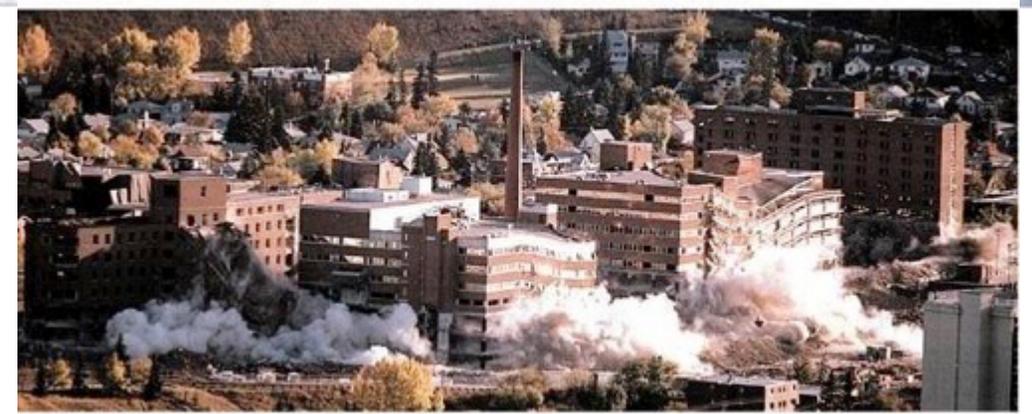
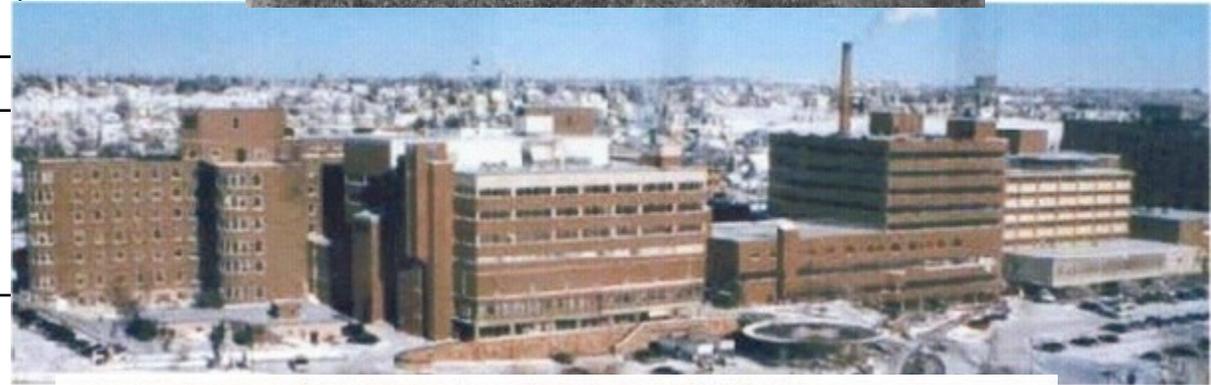
# Hospital 1910 - 1998



Third Calgary General Hospital (first two on south side of river)	
Address: 841 Centre Ave NE	Four Storey brick 160 beds
Opens in Bridgeland: February, 1910	Demolished: 1959
Replaced with expansion of Fourth CGH	

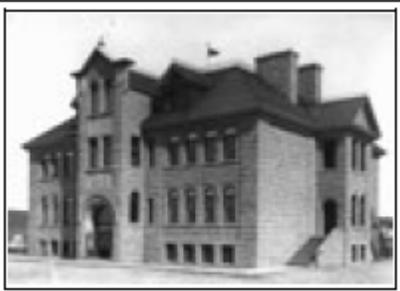


Fourth Calgary General Hospital	
Buildings extended from 7A-9A St NE and 1 Ave to McDougall Rd	
Opens in Bridgeland: May, 1953	Expanded several times – School of Nsg Residence, laundry, etc
7 Storey brick building	
626 beds/ 110 Bassinets (grew to 1000)	Centre for psychiatry, rehab, trauma
<b>Imploded 1998</b> – part of provincial cost cutting to health care	
<b>Current Use:</b> Murdoch Park & the Bridges condo development.	
Wall erected with hospital bricks in Park to honour the General Hospital.	



# Schools

**1910 "Grand Old Sandstone Lady,"**  
**Riverside School** (later re-named  
*Langevin Community School*).  
Burned down 1966 and replaced 1968



Riverside School, 1911.

*"The school, and the community itself, became and remained a stimulating example of people of different backgrounds working together for common goals and openly sharing their lives, hopes and aspirations"*  
-Authors of Communities Six.

**1913** original Bridgeland School  
on 8 Ave – renamed **Stanley  
Jones School** and now part of  
Renfrew

**1914 Riverside Bungalow School No. 1**  
*(located along 1 Ave to the north of No. 2- demolished)*

**1920 Riverside Bungalow  
School No. 2** Still open  
& located along 2 Ave

**19?? Bridgeland Cottage School**  
2 Ave @10 St - Demolished 1960

**1921 Bridgeland Elementary School**  
*Former CBE, in '90's rented to Rundle College, then  
sold to private Deltawest Academy in early 2000's*

**1960's Christine Meikle School-** closed  
Jan'17 Now vacant. School rebuilt in Varsity



# Churches and their roles

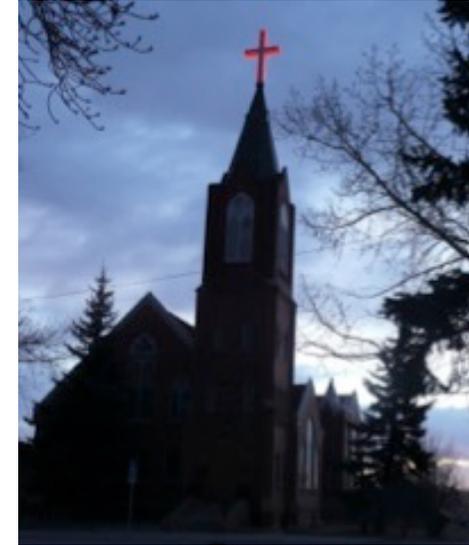
The different immigrant groups wanted to worship in their own language. These church settings also enabled people to meet and maintain their culture.

Immanuel Lutheran Church (1903) first church at 43 4 St.

Many churches were built and many are still in use today, having changed denominations and owners over the years

Worshipping here over the years are religions such as **Lutheran, Baptist, Roman Catholic (Ukrainian/ Croatian/ Polish, Chinese), Orthodox (Russian, Eritrean, Ethiopian Ukrainian), Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Methodist, Presbyterian (Korean), Islam, Evangelical, Buddhist, Hindu**

Bridgeland – Riverside has the greatest diversity of churches of any Calgary community and an iconic skyline



# Industries in the communities over the years

- Riverside Ironworks
- Laycock Dairy
- Riverside Lumber co.
- Tuxedo Spice Company
- Cereal company
- Lagora Cigar Company
- Golden West Brewing
- City Dump & Incinerator
- Calgary Abbatoir
- Freightways Trucking
- Farmer Johns Used Cars
- Alberta Ice Company



Riverside Lumber



Laycock Dairy - Bridgeland



Nose Creek - City incinerator



# The Calgary Zoo



Calgary



**1890** – Federal govt leases St. George's Island to the municipality for parks purposes.

**1910** – The City takes formal ownership of the islands and proposed developing a zoo on the island, but the idea was soon abandoned.

**1929** – Calgary Zoological Society formally organizes with **36 mammals & 78 birds**

**1935** - Dinny the Dinosaur constructed and prehistoric park opened

**1960's - '84** - Tom Campbell Hill used for grazing of some of the Zoo's hoofed animals till alternate land was acquired outside the city

**2013** – Devastating flood which damaged the island and endangered zoo animals

**2016** – The Zoo now has **over 1000 animals and 272 species**

**2017** – the original 12 St/ St Georges Island Bridge replaced with a new span

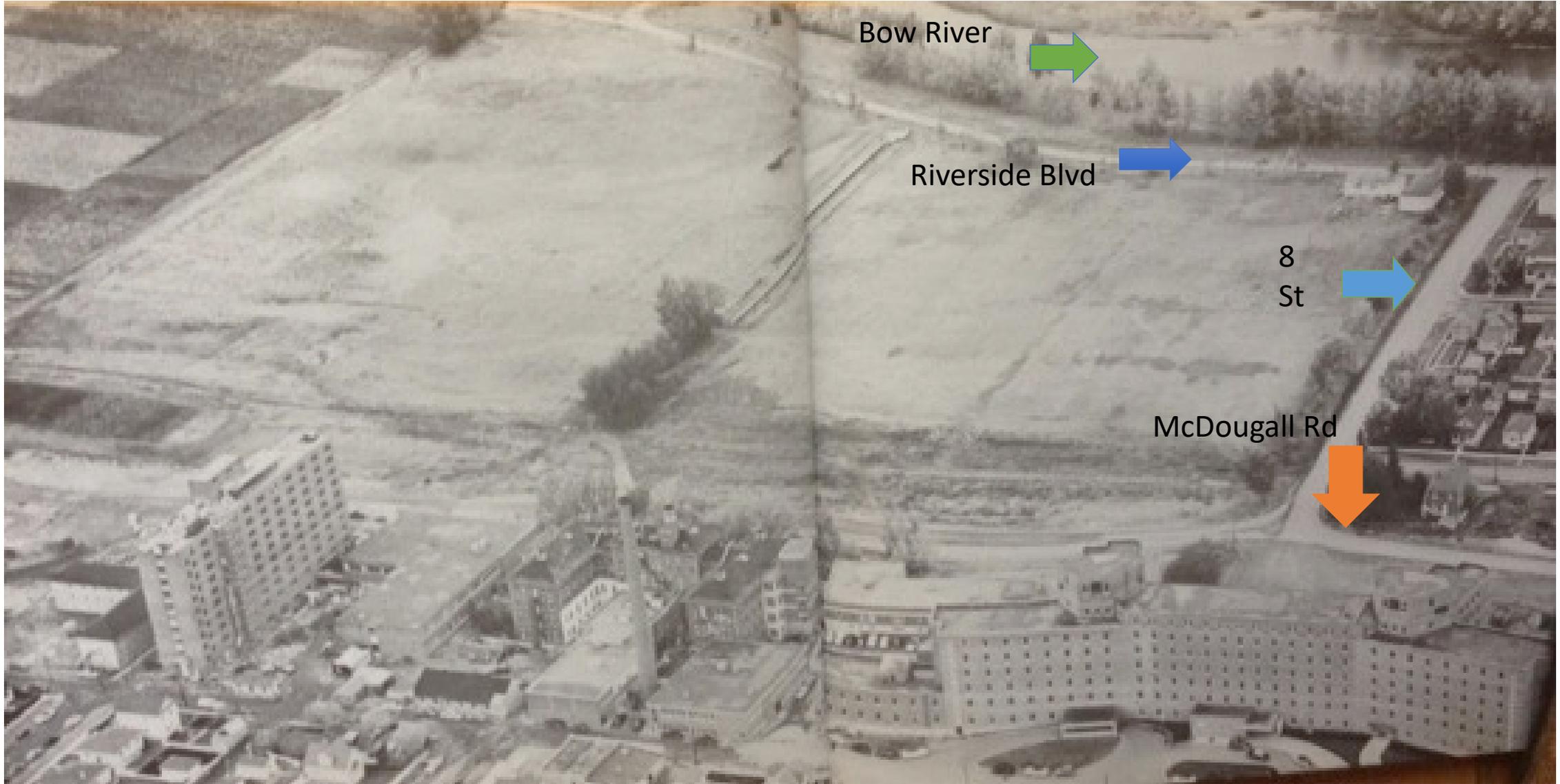


- The area south of McDougall Road was considered part of the flood plain so no building for many years. The soil is rich, with the area below the 30 meter escarpment sheltered from harsher weather making for ideal conditions for crop growing in the area
- The Riverside area was used for green houses/ market gardens run by Chinese immigrants Hi Won and Hop Sun. The Public Market located on the south side of Langevin Bridge was the likely sales outlet for their produce.
- Nose Creek area was also used for market gardens and operated by Chinese immigrants Yee Sing & John Newson (1916 Henderson's Directories)



Looking Southwest 1960's

# Green area south of Calgary General Hospital



Calgary General Hospital looking south – 1950's

# Bridgeland-Riverside Vacant Lots Garden

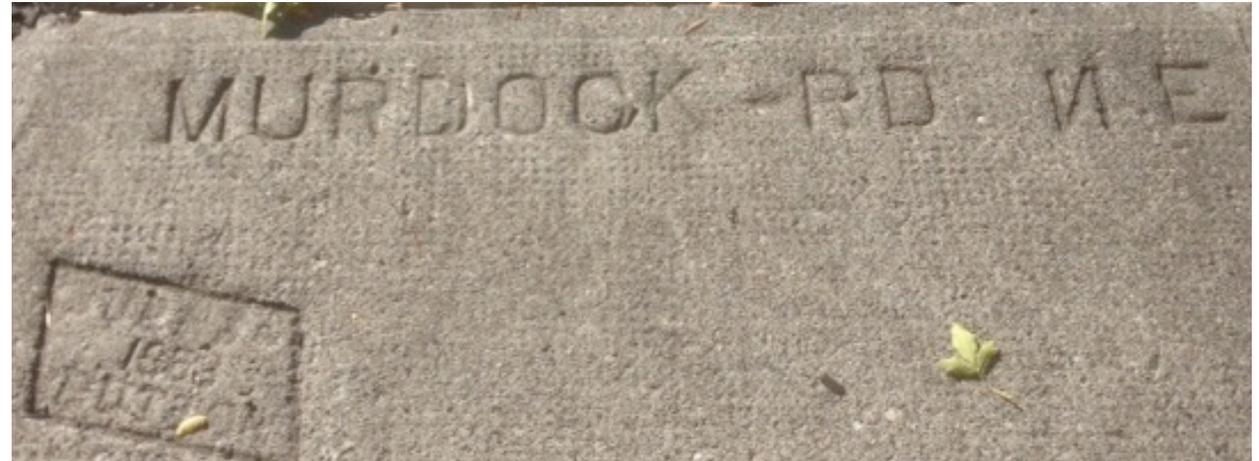
- The *Calgary Vacant Lots Garden Club* (1914 – 1952) developed a culture of gardening across Calgary which benefited less fortunate residents enabling them to grow vegetables.
- During the Depression, some residents rented vacant lots from the city to grow their own food. Livestock was kept until a grazing prohibition within city limits passed by City Council in 1939.
- The Bridgeland/Vacant Lots Garden - last of its kind in Calgary and is now an heritage park (located at 46-7 St. N.E north of McDougall Rd)



# Sidewalk stamps – visible history



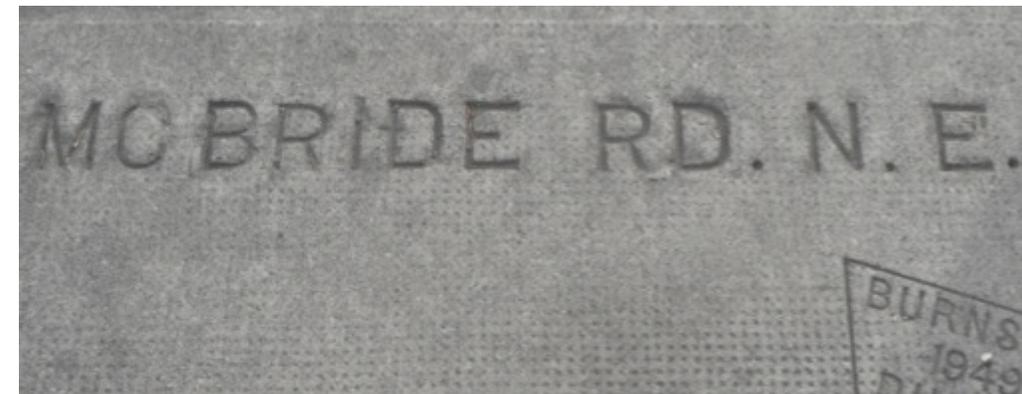
Oldest existing stamp  
4 St @ Marsh Rd NE



Shows some of the errors- NE backwards  
Murdoch Rd (misspelled) -now called Centre Ave



Area south of Centre Ave originally called SE but this was found to be confusing so stamp altered



Stamp found at 7St south of Centre Ave along escarpment – road never built

- Riverside (Germantown) streets
  - Dresden – became 6ASt
  - Berlin – became 2 Ave
  - Kaiser - became Centre Ave
  - Barwis – early NWMP / settler became Dewdney became 4 St
  - Riverside Blvd – became Memorial Drive
- Bridgeland – Louisa –became 1 Ave
  - Lougheed – became 10 St
  - Douglass - became 7A St
- Streets south of Centre Ave were originally considered SE, but confusing so changed to NE and names rather than numbers
  - Named for mayors – Murdoch, Marsh, Ramsey
  - Named for early settlers – McPherson, McDougall, Thomson
  - Named for ?? - Meredith

# Social / Housing organizations built in vicinity of the hospital



Calgary



- **Cdn National Institute for Blind**
  - Originally a residence that was demolished in 19xx, built a new centre that is now an office and service centre (recently opened doors to new Daycare setting)
- **District 7 Hospital group - now Carewest**
  - Early 1960's built Crossbow Aux. Hospital (closed mid 1990's)
  - Late 1960's built George Boyack Nursing Home
  - Late 1980's built Admin Centre, now AHS Seniors Clinic
- **Metropolitan Calgary Fdn—now Silvera for Seniors**
  - built Bow Valley Lodge (late 1950's), then Spruce Lodge (1999), Aspen Lodge (2000), Willow Park on the Bow (2010), former cottages yet to be demolished and with more land available and plans to build more



# Other Social / Housing organizations built

- **Rehabilitation Society of Calgary** (mid 1960's)
- **Bishop O'Byrne Seniors Housing** – Columbus Manor (1980's) and Columbus Place (2014) and plan to construct another building
- **CCIS Margaret Chisholm Refugee Resettlement Centre** (1994)
- **Children's Cottage** (early 1990's)
- **Women's Emergency Shelter** (1990's)



# Homes - building era's 1910 -1914



# Homes - building era's 1930 - 40's cottages



# Homes - major building era's - R2

## 1950-60's – one storey bungalows



# Multi family homes - built 1980's



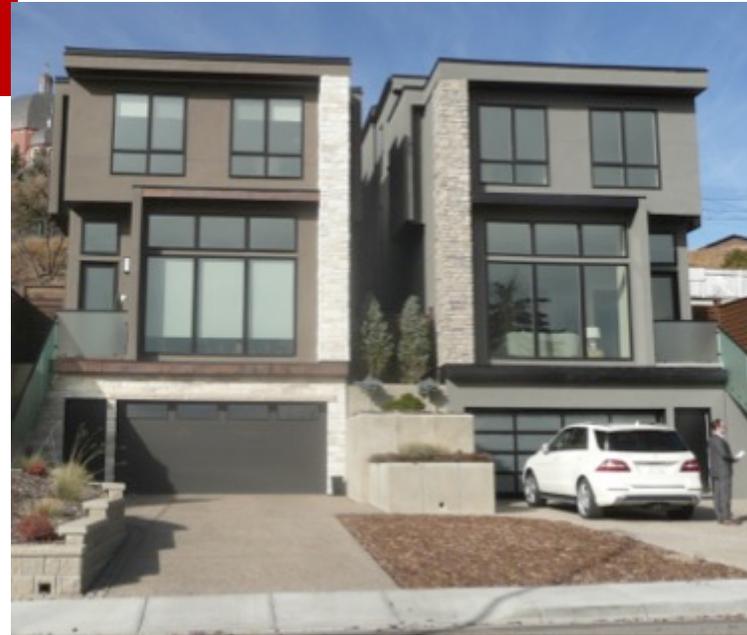
# Newer homes – 2000' s- following many ARP guidelines



Calgary



# Homes - present day - Contemporary style



# Contemporary homes and their impact



An Historic community -some ideas  
..... for incorporating the historic past  
into the future evolution of  
**BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE**

# Affirm Bridgeland - Riverside as a heritage community

- Make a statement clearly affirming the heritage status in new ARP
- Commit to our heritage as a significant feature to be considered in all BRCA Board decisions
- Capitalize on our heritage – its diversity and acceptance of differences in promoting our community
- Be willing to advocate for retention of older / character buildings and their restoration

# “Tell the story” of Bridgeland - Riverside



Calgary



- It is not easy for people to learn and to know the fascinating history of our community – much was lost or has changed or is understated and there is great danger now in losing its essence
- Our story is unique and different than other communities in the city and deserves to be told
- It is common for developers to acknowledge the historic nature of our community, yet others are quite prepared to demolish older properties

# Affirm our heritage - brand accordingly wth entrance signs

## Heritage Branding **Mission Cliff Bungalow** –

“In order to help theme the community as a heritage destination, we have installed three 7 X 4 foot carved-cedar entrance signs, at the 5th Street Shell service station, on the east end of Scollen Bridge and at the corner of 5th Street & Elbow Dr.

These signs will contribute to residents’ and visitors’ awareness of the historical significance of this community and therefore to an appreciation of its cultural and architectural heritage.”

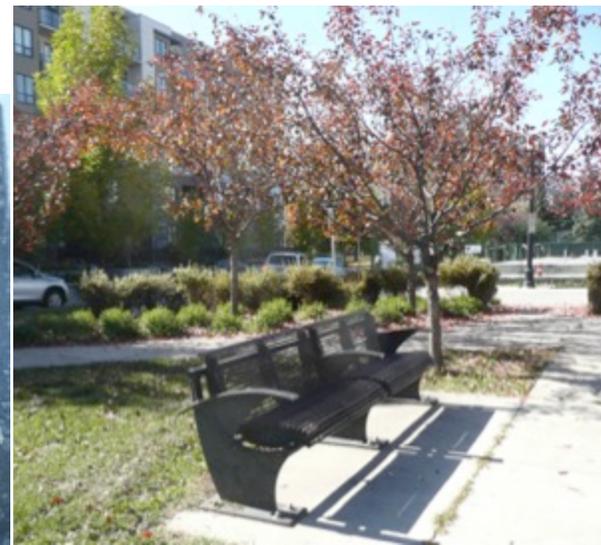
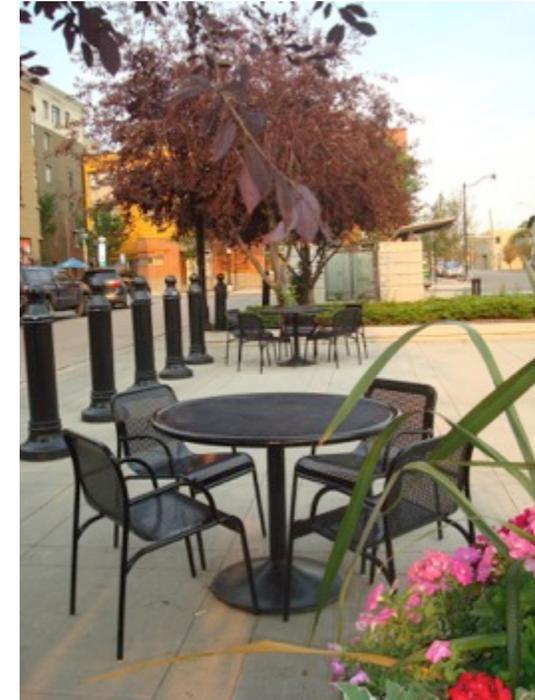


# Other examples of heritage branded entrance signs



# Naming of Parks

- **Currently the parks in “the Bridges” area are named :**
  - **General Plaza** named for Calgary General Hospital
  - **Murdoch Park** named for an early Calgary Mayor has a plaque – located south of former Murdoch Rd (now Centre Ave)
  - **McPherson Park** for an early settler, north of McPherson Rd
  - **St Matthew Park** in view of St Matthew church
  - **McDougall Park** – formerly Riverside Park – south of McDougall Rd but renamed without any community consultation



# Naming of Parks

## Other Parks that could be named:

- 9A St – aka Spiderweb park
- At 4a st & 5 Ave along escarpment – Forgotten Park
- At Bridge Crescent and 6a/ 7 St
- Beside Bridgeland- Deltawest School – Tyndale Park ??
- Top of escarpment – bedside Edmonton Trail/ NEXT condo



# Re-name Riverside Park

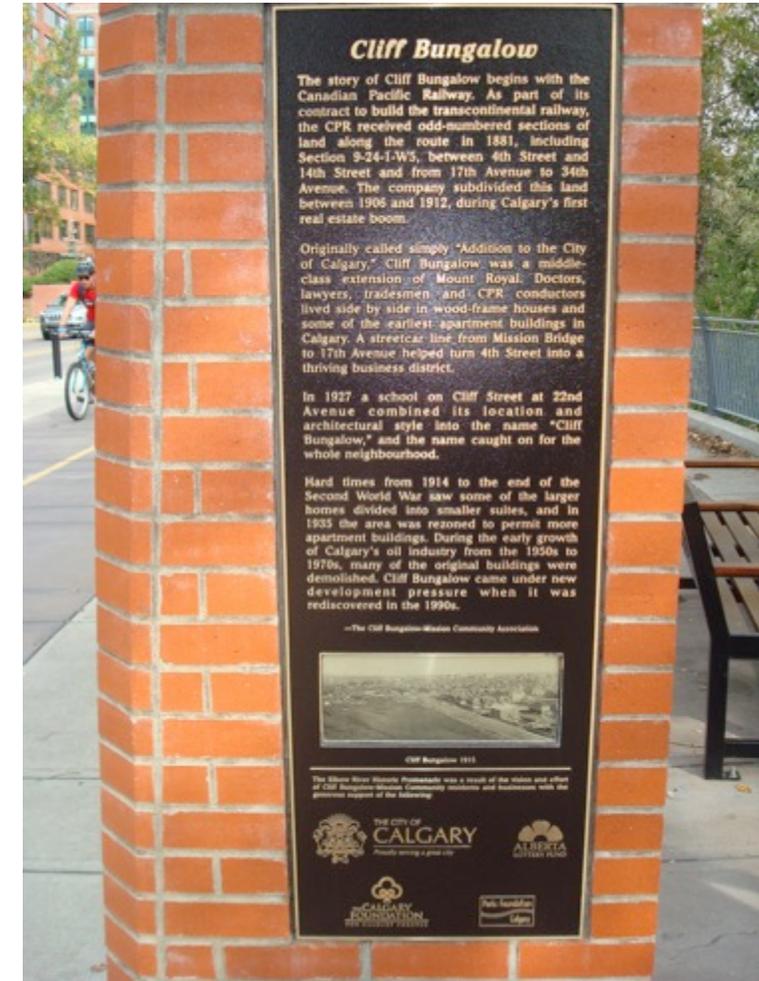
- Clarify the presence of the Riverside Seniors Park and consider evolution of the plan
- Correct the error that was made during the Bridges development and ensure that the Riverside Park name is not lost
- Consider the commemoration of the communities of Bridgeland and Riverside in this park



# Commemorative Plaque

Describe the unique origins and evolution of both Bridgeland and Riverside

See the example from Mission - Cliff Bungalow



Plaque in Mission Cliff Bungalow  
Near Elbow River and 4 St SW

# New street signs to include the original as well as current names

Centre Ave was Murdoch

1 Ave was Louisa

2 Ave was Bowen,

3 Ave was Emmett

4 Ave was Thompson

5 Ave was Jamieson

4 St was Barwis

6 St was

6A St was Dresden

7 St was Munich

7a St was Douglas

8 St was Drury

8A St was Graves

9 St was Clark

9A St was Bennett

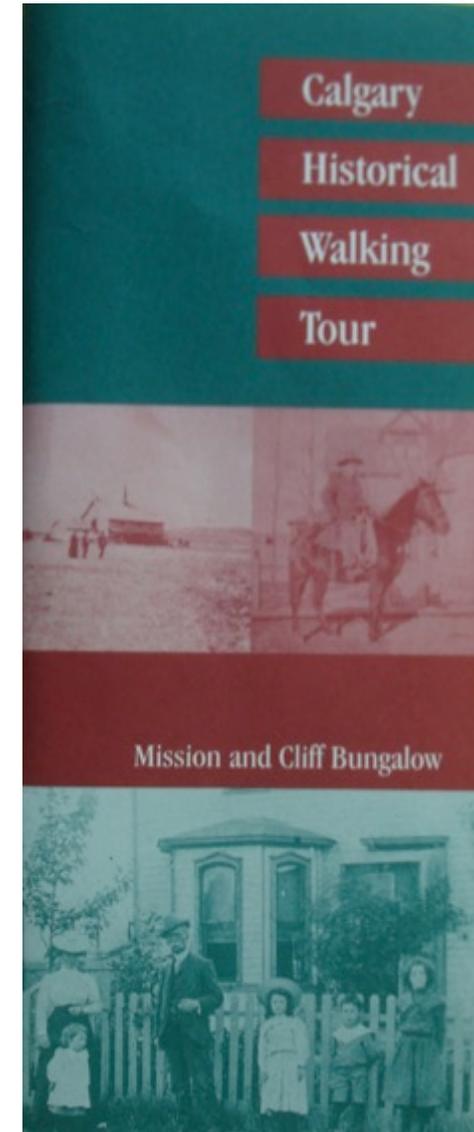
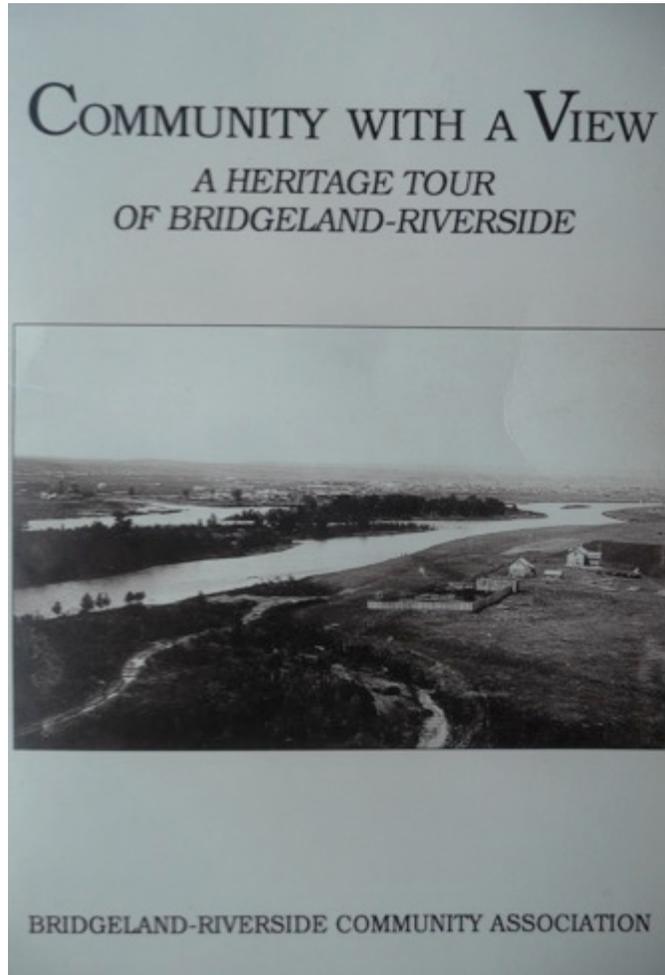
10 St was Lougheed

Memorial Drive was Riverside Blvd

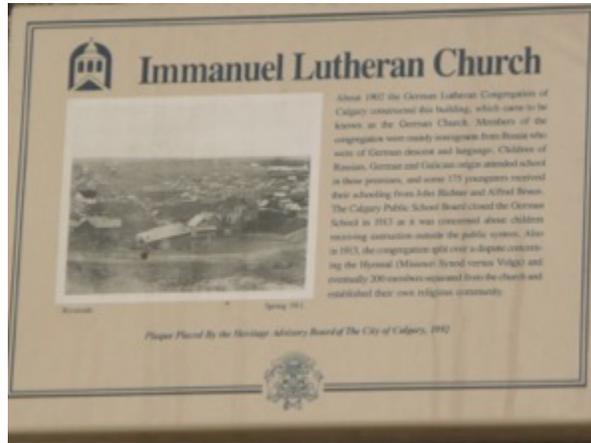


Mission area

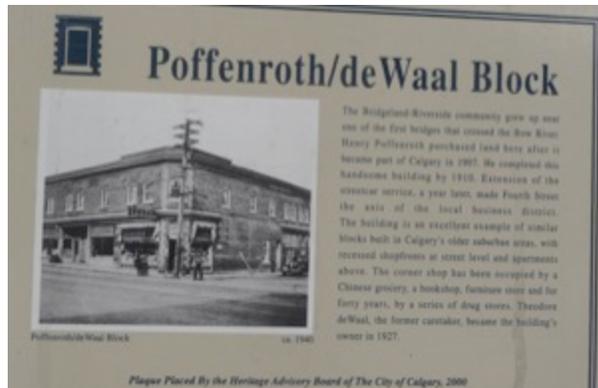
# Develop a new walking tour and consider online/ digital / audio version for walking tours



# Place plaques in significant locations to show interesting features of the past



**Present in Riverside**



*Mission area promenade along Elbow River*



*Inglewood Streetcar plaque  
9 Ave SE*

# Commemorate the 88 year old Calgary General Hospital



*When consulted during the development of the Bridges, the residents indicated that they preferred something of a modest nature.....*

# ....Commemorate Calgary General Hospital

**More than a wall - tell the story of the evolution of CGH  
and the significance of its presence in Bridgeland Riverside  
- examples elsewhere**



Rouleauville - off 17 Ave  
Calgary French settlement



Holy Cross Hospital  
School of Nursing  
Commemorative  
sculpture

# Acknowledgement and Historical Designation

- Seek and promote opportunities to celebrate the history of our community ie Passageatta, Historic Calgary Week Walks
- Encourage residents who own historical homes to pursue designation



# Paint or wrap Transit boxes in historic themes

## Available box locations

- 9 St @ 1 Ave
- 9St @ McDougall Rd
- 4 St @ Memorial Dr
- Edm. Trail @ Memorial Dr
- 4 St @ 1 Ave (NW side).



# Plastic wrap with historic or other appropriate pictures for garbage cans

- Our garbage cans are frequent targets of graffiti
- Possible locations for wrapping
  - Tom Campbell Hill
  - promenade along Centre Ave
  - Murdoch Park (CGH theme)



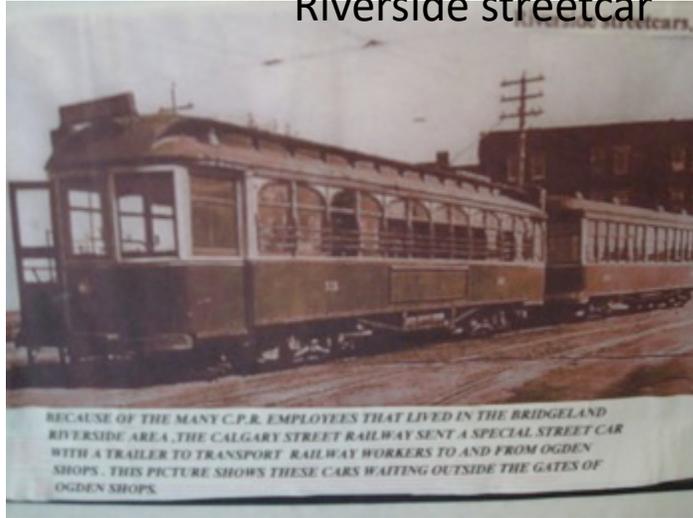
# Other art with heritage theme



European Village theme

# Post historic pictures and maps at the community centre

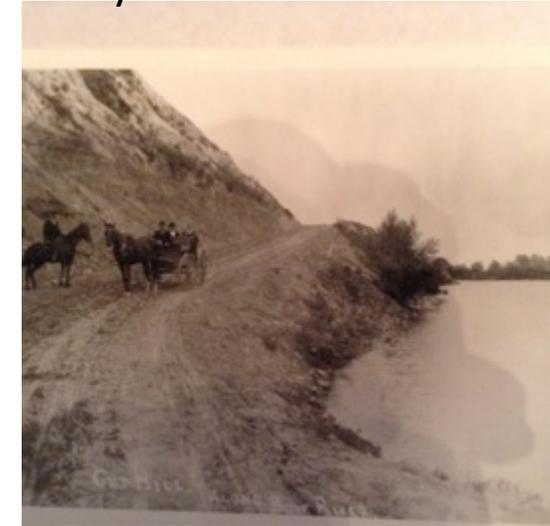
Riverside streetcar



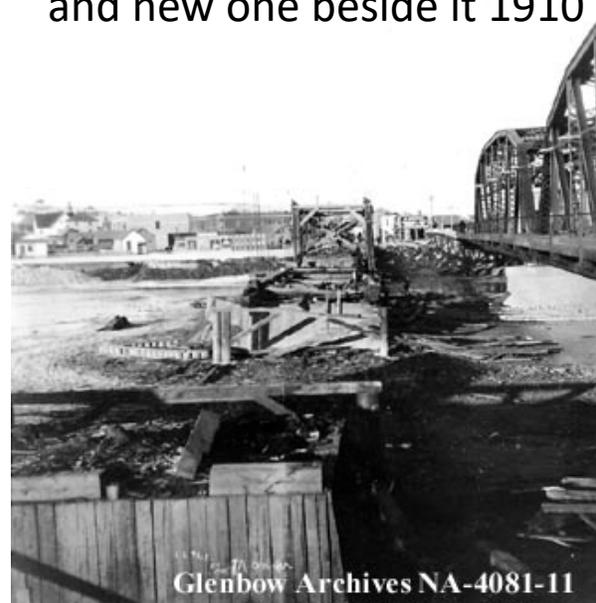
Brothels near Nose Creek



Tom Campbell Hill and the original Blackfoot Trail – early 1900's



Removal of first Langevin Bridge and new one beside it 1910



Nose Creek Settlements



# Further explore Indigenous heritage theme



- Indigenous camping areas along Bow River near Nose Creek and current Langevin Bridge



**Take action now to recognize, preserve  
and commemorate the important  
history of our community**



Calgary



Discussion.....

Possible opportunities....

- Mainstreets project
- ARP work
- 20 yr anniversary of CGH implosion

Next Steps.....