

OCTOBER 2021

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BRIDGELANDRIVERSIDE

BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



FLYOVER PARK
BUILDING BEAUTY IN A LOST SPACE

 **BRCA**
BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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For more information:
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COLUMBIA
COLLEGE
CALGARY

by Alex MacWilliam

As I reported in the last issue of this newsletter, the Grand Opening of our wonderful Flyover Park was scheduled for September 18. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled on September 13 by the City in response to rising COVID-19 numbers in Calgary and throughout Alberta. While I understand the City's reasons for cancelling the event, I regret that this project, the result of much effort and collaboration by numerous people and organizations, did not receive a special day. With that in mind, I thought I would share some information about the most recent additions to Flyover Park, namely the murals that now adorn three of the concrete pillars and the abutment supporting the road that carries thousands of people into downtown Calgary each day. One of the murals was featured on the cover of our September issue.

Mural artist Borrris (yes, with three "r's") said he wanted his artwork to represent people moving through their city with visual storytelling that highlights local geography, landmarks, and architecture. By using simple geometry and suggesting everyday scenes in a semi-abstract way, he hopes that observers will form their own impressions as they pass by the pillars. Borrris said the sides of each pillar were especially fun to paint since they connect the front and back pictures and were painted freestyle. His idea was to reuse floral elements painted on the abutment as elements that would connect each of the four murals.

Thank you Borrris for your vibrant contribution to our community and thanks to the BRCA, Beltline Urban Murals Project (BUMP), Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, Calgary Parks Foundation, Minto Communities Calgary, Benevity, Riverside School, and the many individuals whose efforts transformed this previously unused space into a welcoming place for residents and visitors. You will see our cover this month features Flyover Park and an individual familiar to many in our neighbourhood. Ali McMillan was instrumental in bringing forward the idea of turning this lost space into a beautiful area and taking it from concept to reality. Thank you, Ali!!! If you haven't visited Flyover Park yet, I strongly urge you to check it out.



Order Your October Farmers' Market Box



\$125 per box – limited quantities

Order By: 1:00 pm on October 18

Pick Up: October 21 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Bridgeland Community Association Hall

Follow us on social media for the most up-to-date information.

Thank you for your support of our box and your favourite local vendors.



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for seniors in Calgary**

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<p>8-1-1 Health Link (24-Hour)</p>	<p>403-266-HELP (403-266-4357) Distress Centre and SeniorConnect (24-Hour)</p>
<p>Health advice (including dementia advice) from a registered nurse.</p>	<p>Crisis support and urgent social work response (including if you are concerned about a senior at risk in the community).</p>
<p>3-1-1 City of Calgary (24-Hour)</p>	<p>403-943-1500 Access Mental Health</p>
<p>Information on all City of Calgary services. www.calgary.ca</p>	<p>Non-urgent advice on navigating the addiction and mental health system.</p>
<p>2-1-1 Community Resources (24-Hour)</p>	<p>403-705-3250 Elder Abuse Resource Line (24-Hour)</p>
<p>Information and referrals for community and social services. www.ab.211.ca</p>	<p>Confidential information and support, or to report a suspected case of elder abuse.</p>

Telephone language interpretation service available on all lines.

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Development and Transportation	Bonnie Kemp Planning@brcacalgary.org
Communications	Ana Hoepfner Communications@brcacalgary.org
Heritage	Deb Lee Heritage@brcacalgary.org
Beautification	Susan Mulholland Beautification@brca.calgary.org
Safety	Alex MacWilliam Safety@brca.calgary.org
Programs	Sarah MacDonald Programs@brca.calgary.org
Events	Marie Pigarowa Events@brca.calgary.org
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Newsletter	Alex MacWilliam newsletter@brca.calgary.org

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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

During this time, membership fees are waived; you can still sign up to be a member and when you do so, you will not be charged a fee.

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

Last name: _____

First name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

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

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PARK NAMING PROJECT UPDATE



By the time you read this article, our Park Naming Project volunteers will have been present at seven out of eight small parks and green spaces we hope to name. We are following the City of Calgary Naming Guidelines and have been consulting as broadly as possible with Bridgeland-Riverside residents about proposed names for these places. Residents have been getting involved through conversations as we meet them in the park or when we knock on their doors. Many of you have been completing surveys for each of the parks. We will be accepting surveys until October 25, so please go to www.brcacalgary.org/bridgeland-love and click on the park number. Full details on each park are available. Suggestions for alternate names can be submitted by contacting brca.beautification@gmail.com.

In the spirit of Reconciliation, we hosted a conversation with Indigenous residents of the community on September 8 to better understand their perspective about our park spaces and naming. We learned that each First Nations group has different ways to view a situation, so assumptions should not be made. Animals have great importance in the Indigenous world, so an animal name may be a good fit for one of our parks. The presence of sweetgrass in a park gives it greater importance. Body parts are often used as place names and have been recognized in some Calgary spaces already (e.g. Elbow and Nose). Is there a body part that reflects a park in our community? One of our parks (see photo) that does not yet have a name is beside

the confluence of the Bow River and Nose Creek and close to the historic trail from Blackfoot Crossing so this area may hold potential for Indigenous naming. Elders are recognized as an important resource for the official naming of spaces. We appreciate the input of our Indigenous participants. It provides good food for thought and will enable future dialogue.

We will soon be completing the consultation in individual parks and will then review the input from the surveys as well as suggestions submitted for alternate names. We invite you to attend an Open House at the Community Centre, Lower Hall on November 2 at 5:00 to 8:00 pm where we will share the results of feedback and hear from participants about our progress and the next steps for naming our parks.

Thank you to all who are taking the time to participate in this community-building park naming process.

BRCA Beautification Committee – Park Naming Project Team

**BRAIN
GAMES**

SUDOKU

1								
3				2	5			
2	9	7		3			6	
				6	1	8	9	
	1	4	3	5				
	6			4		7	8	1
			2	8				4
								9

FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

Jana Lait



How long have you lived in Bridgeland-Riverside? What do you like about living here?

I have lived here since 2013. We were lucky to find a beautiful house to rent a month after the big flood when very few rentals were available. Living walking distance from downtown and to the C-train is a priority for me, so this community is a great fit. The bonuses are the friendly people of all ages, and the beautiful homes and gardens to admire. You may see me walking our cat Josie (more accurately, she walks me).

How did you get involved in volunteering in our community?

I was previously on the board of the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association, so I moved here with an interest in community volunteering. And then my friend Deb Lee, after some gentle nudging, got me excited about getting involved with the BRCA.

What kind of volunteer activities have you done?

I have been a part of the BRCA Transportation Committee for a while. We work to make the community safer and more pleasant for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. This

includes communicating with various departments at the City and with the Ward 9 office. A fun event many community members helped with was painting the dots on the road at the intersections of 1st Ave at 8A St and 9 St. We also completed a project a couple of years ago funded by Alberta Transportation that involved wayfinding for seniors in Riverside, bicycle training for kids, and working with the City on traffic calming at McDougall Ave and 12 St. We're always looking for new members, so feel free to reach out at transportation@brccalgary.org.

This year, I facilitated the discussion at a virtual film viewing we hosted in partnership with Third Action Film Festival. Last summer, a few of us completed assessments of the parks in the community which laid the groundwork for the parks naming initiative going on now. I have also volunteered for events like bench painting in the park and the community cleanup.

What ideas do you have for volunteering in the future? What interests or excites you?

I would like to collaborate more with other communities in the city so that we can learn from and support each other in enhancing traffic safety. I would also like to help with arts and cultural events in the community.

What would you tell others in the community about volunteering?

Volunteering is a rewarding way to contribute to the community and to meet people. And give only as much time as you can spare...it doesn't have to be a big long-term commitment.

What do you like most about volunteering for the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association?

I like volunteering for the BRCA because I meet so many nice folks. I see friendly faces everywhere. For instance, we just bought a house, and it turns out our next-door neighbour is someone I met volunteering at a Flyover Park event a couple years ago.



The Kindness of Helen Jusic



We all know Helen Jusic as the Bridgeland “Greeter” who waves to all who drive by the 4-way stop at 12 Street and 1st Avenue NE. She has garnered the affection of many, from the Mayor and local City Councillor to the Fire Chief and several media outlets. But most of us know little about Helen’s journey to Calgary and how her story is interconnected with the history of Bridgeland.

Helen was born into a large family in the Croatian part of Hungary in the 1930’s. Communism ruled the day and life was very difficult. Helen had to go to work at a young age and was unable to finish her schooling. By her early 20s she realized there was little hope for improvement, and she secretly made plans to leave Hungary, something that was then against the law. Her harrowing journey to freedom in Austria lasted 14 days and nights and most of her companions were captured before they reached safety. Upon arrival in Austria, Helen was placed in a refugee camp and was later allowed to emigrate to Canada to join her older sister Rose and brother Andy.

Similar to many early Bridgeland immigrants, Helen crossed the Atlantic by ship, arriving in Halifax and then boarded a train to head west. One of only a few women

on the train, she watched with amazement as the thousands of miles of Canadian landscape passed by her window. Helen left Austria in balmy spring weather but when the train arrived in Calgary she was horrified at how cold and snowy it was. As many immigrants no doubt think “What have I done to move to this place?” Jobs were not easy to find at that time, especially if you couldn’t speak English and some Calgarians were not pleased to have “foreigners” arriving here. Helen could speak Croatian, Hungarian, and German, which enabled her to speak with many other immigrants, but there were no programs available to help her learn English. This made it much more challenging.

Helen first lived with her sister. Following her marriage to her husband Nezir, they moved to a home on Child Avenue (part of Bridgeland in the early days). Their daughter Ferida was born in 1964.

Helen was a hard worker, taking on several jobs, but the Calgary General Hospital was where both Nezir and Helen worked for many years. As a service aid, Helen ensured that things ran smoothly on the nursing unit. She especially enjoyed delivering and getting supplies from different areas of the hospital. Just as now, everyone enjoyed their interactions with Helen. The Jusic’s moved to a new home near Centre Avenue in Bridgeland and Helen attended the Croatian Catholic church when it was located on 1st Avenue at 6th Street.

Retirement in 1992 initiated a new chapter and Helen and Nezir travelled to many different destinations for some years until he passed away. Helen carried on with a career as a volunteer in some of the nearby care centres, offering her friendliness and help with activities to make life better for residents. Letters of appreciation from George Boyack Care Centre, Rehab Society of Calgary, Silvera for Seniors are a testament to her efforts. Gardening and baking filled many other hours – Helen gets excellent results in both pursuits and willingly shares her expertise and her products. She enjoys time with her family and has made friends with all ages in the neighbourhood!

When COVID-19 started, all those contacts stopped. Helen was stuck alone at home and for her, this was almost unbearable. One day in March as she stood at the end of her street, she waved at the passing bus driver. He smiled and waved back. Helen waved at the next vehicle passing and the driver waved too. It wasn’t long before Helen was spending more time greeting people at the 4-way stop. The positive responses she

received from passing motorists convinced her it was important to continue. Unless the weather is bad, Helen usually spends time there most days and people love to see her! Her air hugs, friendly waves, and greetings have buoyed the spirits of many who have been worn down by our COVID challenges. Helen epitomizes goodness and caring, and people recognize and appreciate it.

Helen attributes her ability to handle life's many challenges to the strength she has gained from her deep faith. She loves connecting with people but sometimes is speechless at the publicity and accolades she is receiving.

Thank you, Helen Jusic, for being an amazing Bridgeland and for your lifelong contributions to the wellbeing of other people. You make us proud, and you are loved and appreciated by many!

Deb Lee, Heritage Committee



Riverside Park Field Day: Lots Of Fantastic Fun!

Our first annual BRCA Fantastic Field Day was held on August 21. Approximately 150 adults and kids turned out in Riverside Park and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The theme for the day was an old-fashioned village event with activities everybody could participate in. These included: yoga, soccer, kickball, tug-of-war, giant Jenga and checkers, bocce, Frisbee, geocache treasure hunt, and face painting. This "family gathering" brought together four generations of Bridgelanders. New friends were made. The weather cooperated and the atmosphere was casual, welcoming, and fun. Buskers provided music; refreshments were provided by Blush Lane Market, and food trucks were available for those who worked up an appetite. Many thanks go to the many volunteers who organized, set up and manned the activity stations, Blush Lane Market for refreshments, buskers Cam Lorentzon and Fromage Chaud, Calgary Sport and Social Club and Craig Prichard for help with Kickball, Whitney Hoiberg for Face Painting, Bridgeland Yoga and Suzanne Greenwood for Yoga, Rob McLeod for Frisbee, and Brian Warrington for Geocache Treasure Hunt.

Let's do this again in 2022 and beyond!



Beacon Original Art

Beacon Original Art is thrilled to return to the BRCA Hall on October 16 and 17 for our annual fall art show and sale, with 25+ different artists in attendance each day. We hope to see you in person! www.beaconoriginalart.com.

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Nothing Better Than A Fresh Homemade Cookie

October is a festive month, one for celebration for all the milk and cookie lovers out there! This is because the first of October is National Homemade Cookies Day in the United States. Whether it is chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin, there is a cookie out there waiting to be made and enjoyed on this special day!



Labour Day Classic



A fun day in the sun was had by a group of Bridgelanders at McMahon Stadium on September 6! A shout out to Ron, pictured here with his kids, for bringing Bridgelanders together for the Labour Day Classic between the Calgary Stampeders and the Edmonton Elks. The game was full of surprises, including a Canadian Forces flyover of four jets, a hare running down the field, the 2021 Women's World Hockey Champions, Team Canada with their trophy, and other exciting moments. It was fantastic to see pro sports back in front of fans!



Labour Day Clean-up Crew

Many thanks to our volunteer neighbours, Linda, John, Graeme, Janine, Deb, Dianne, and Karen for taking time to tidy up Murdoch Park.



FEDERATION OF
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

Trick or Treating Tips

A message from the Federation of Calgary Communities



Halloween can be a fun and exciting event for kids (and adults). Below are some informative tips to increase safety on October 31.

Residents

- Turn on outdoor lights and replace burnt-out bulbs.
- Clear a path from the road to your front door and remove any potential obstacles or tripping hazards.
- Keep your pets safe. Confine animals indoors, away from the unfamiliar (and spooky) guests at the front door.
- Beware of potential food allergies; consider alternative goodies.
- If you're driving; be cautious of goblins, ghouls, and ghosts out and about in your neighbourhood.

Parents

- Costumes should be short enough to avoid tripping; and be light coloured to be easily seen at night. Having your child wear reflective tape will also help them be better seen by drivers.
- Use non-toxic makeup for the costume instead of masks as they can reduce visibility for your child.
- Create an easy-to-follow route with your children and teenagers.
- Travel in groups of three or four. Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Practice crosswalk safety. Make your way up one side of the street and cross to the other side looking both ways, don't crisscross back and forth.
- Double-check your child's goodie bags to ensure everything is safe to eat.

Remember

Connect with neighbours!

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is good for the soul



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October Reading List

by Kyla McDonald



With the leaves starting to change and the temperature slowly dropping, October is the perfect time to pick up a book and soak in the essence of the season. Whether you chose a book that is set in autumn or a spooky thriller, here are ten recommendations that will be sure to fit the autumnal, mysterious atmosphere of the month of October.

- *Plain Bad Heroines* by Emily M. Danforth
- *Colorization: One Hundred Years of Black Films in a White World* by Wil Haygood
- *The Perishing* by Natasha Deón
- *A History of Wild Places* by Shea Ernsshaw
- *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman
- *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead
- *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz
- *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux
- *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson
- *Let the Right One In* by John Ajvide Lindqvist

Things To Do in October

by Kyla McDonald



With the chill of autumn in Calgary just around the corner, there are many things to look forward to this October. Restrictions permitting, here is a list of things to add to your to-do list this month.

1. Navigate your way through a corn maze
2. Experience the thrills of a ghost tour
3. Pick the perfect pumpkin
4. Enjoy some of the fall brews of the many local breweries in Calgary (18+)
5. Go for a picnic with friends
6. Indulge with a pumpkin spice latte from your favourite coffee shop
7. Treat yourself to a drive-in movie experience
8. Go for a walk through one of Calgary's many parks to enjoy the beautiful autumn colours
9. Check out a live music performance in your community
10. Stop by the farmers market or another outdoor market for fresh produce and handmade goods
11. Have a scary movie marathon
12. Start a new murder mystery podcast
13. Take a day trip out to Canmore or Banff



Halloween is a big deal! Kids love it, parents enjoy it, and it's a holiday to be excited for. When you think of all the candy, costumes, and decorations, it can feel exciting and mystical. But did you know that Halloween is actually the second largest commercial holiday in the United States. Consumers have spent around 9 billion dollars on Halloween in one year, now THAT is scary!!

**COLOURING
PAGE**
by Nicole Rocher





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Let's Stick with the Candy

Halloween is all about tricks, treats, and spooky ghosts now. But during the 18th century, for women, it was about finding a husband! They would throw apple peels over their shoulders to try and see their future husband's initials and look in mirrors hoping to see their future spouses face. That sounds interesting, but I think we'll stick with just the candy now!

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

1	5	6	7	9	8	4	3	2
3	4	8	6	2	5	9	1	7
2	9	7	1	3	4	5	6	8
7	2	5	4	6	1	8	9	3
6	3	9	8	7	2	1	4	5
8	1	4	3	5	9	2	7	6
5	6	2	9	4	3	7	8	1
9	7	1	2	8	6	3	5	4
4	8	3	5	1	7	6	2	9

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