

NOVEMBER 2021

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# BRIDGELANDRIVERSIDE

## BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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I write this column on Election Day in Calgary. By the time you read this, we will have a new Mayor and at least eight new City Councillors. Regardless of your political views, we can all agree that interesting times lay ahead. Our city and our neighbourhood are facing unprecedented challenges and more than ever we will need to keep pulling together. The BRCA continues to look for opportunities for our residents to enjoy our wonderful community. We liaise with our Ward 9 Councillor's office, our Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator, our Community Social Worker, the Calgary Police Service, and countless others in the City Administration, all of whom contribute time and effort to assist BRCA and residents with a myriad of matters.

As has been mentioned in past issues of Bridges, our group of volunteer Directors is aided by many neighbours, but we are always on the lookout for more hands to support our community projects and initiatives. With the coming holidays, please take time to think of how you can assist others in our community. Our cover photo, and the accompanying story in this issue, provide a colourful example of the joys of lending a helping hand. The BRCA is grateful for all of your contributions.

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To order visit: [brcacalgary.org/programs/farmers-market](http://brcacalgary.org/programs/farmers-market)

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!

# Volunteering

is good for the soul

## Chilly, Long Days

Throughout history, November has always been thought of as a somber month because it is the start of winter. This meant that the time for preparation and safety protocols had come, and that hibernation time was upon us. Even now, though we no longer hunt for food or have to store up harvest, it is a chillier and darker month for sure.

## BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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FIND SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

## DIRECTORS

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

*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)

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, please feel free to communicate with us about community events at [events@BRCAcalgary.org](mailto:events@BRCAcalgary.org)

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# PARK NAMING PROJECT UPDATE

## Search for Identity: Ten Small Parks

In June 2021, the BRCA Beautification Committee Parks Naming Project team started the process to give names to 8 small parks. In October, 2 new parks were added to the project. We are providing an overview of the 10 parks and some background about suggested names.

We continue to engage with Bridgelanders about the naming of our parks and by the time you read this article, we will have held our November 2 Open House (COVID willing). We are continuing our exploration of Indigenous heritage and naming possibilities. The suggested names for the parks are based on the City of Calgary's Policy CP2016-01 and we remain open to alternate suggestions from our community. We hope to achieve a consensus on the park names and once approved by our BRCA Board of Directors, the recommendations will go to Calgary City Council in 2022.

**Park #4** is our most established and endearing park. It is informally known as 9A Street Park. Many years ago, this park featured a large skating rink and summertime paddling pool. In 2020/21 it was energized by the community spirit of volunteers who created a skating rink with lights, fire pit and seating, games, and art. We are suggesting the name Normie Kwong Park in recognition of the remarkable achievements of this native son of Riverside (see articles in the Bridges July and August 2021).

**Park #2** – located down a lane north of 4 Ave between 4A and 5 St and tucked into the steep escarpment, it was once home to a playground but as the number of children in the area dwindled, the park became a quiet hideaway. We are suggesting the name Hidden Park, but feedback from our online survey has provided suggestions for different names.

**Park #6**, just south of 1 Ave between 8A and 9 Streets, came into being after the demolition of the Calgary General Hospital and subsequent condo/retail development. The Piazza is our suggested name to recognize the many Italian immigrants who settled here.

**Park #3** is a sloped grassy area at Bridge Crescent. The suggested name, Olmsted Park refers to the landscape architect company that laid out contoured streets in 1912 to rise up the steep escarpment which we now share with Renfrew.

**Park #5**, located behind Deltawest School was once part of the Bridgeland School grounds. Naming it Schule Park (German word for school) acknowledges its past connection to the 100 year old school building and the German heritage of our community.

**Parks 1, 7, 8 and 9** have come into being as the result of available land from different development projects. **Park #1**, adjacent to Renfrew and south of 5 Ave at 4A Street was created as a hillside park with native vegetation. The proposed name is Regal View Park.

**Park #7** was planned to be a parking lot for the new Calgary Housing apartments at McDougall Rd and 8 St. A street parking alternative was built instead, and Park #7 was created. It is at the bottom of the lower escarpment at the 7A St. stairs and next to the Vacant Lots Garden Heritage Park. The suggested name is Annie Gale Park in honour of Calgary's first woman alderman and her role in developing the Vacant Lots Garden.

**Park #8** was created from land adjacent to the recently opened Bishop's Manor housing building. The park provides an East-West connection between 11A and 12 Street. A suggested name has not been proposed. Bridgelanders are welcome to submit their ideas.

**Park #9** will be developed in the next few years by Silvera for Seniors at 11-11A Street and north of Bow Valley Lane. This park will run East-West and line up with Park #8.

**Park #10** is in the far southeast corner of our community at the confluence of Nose Creek and the Bow River. It is "off the beaten track" and presents interesting possibilities for naming.

There's still time to provide your feedback on names for each of our 10 parks and we are open to alternate names. You will be entered for a draw for a gift certificate from a Bridgeland merchant.

Until the end of November, surveys for all of the parks can be accessed on the BRCA website: <https://brcacalgary.org/connect/bridgeland-love/> or contact [brca.beautification@gmail.com](mailto:brca.beautification@gmail.com) or 403-263-5755 to request a paper copy of the survey.

The Parks Naming Project is a great way to give these 10 parks a unique identity and a sense of place in our community.

*BRCA Park Naming Project Team*

## Bridgeland Place Community Mural



Hello Bridgeland Partners. Have you seen the beautiful Bridgeland Place community mural? While a few touch-ups still need to be made, this photo shows the final mural representing what residents felt would help commemorate their experience and memories of Bridgeland. Thank you again to everyone who came out to paint and to others for their support of the mural and Bridgeland Place over the years. There may be another unveiling when put up on the building with partners and media and we will try to keep you informed in case you can attend. The following speech made by residents of our planning committee beautifully captures how folks in the building feel. Hope you enjoy.

“On behalf of the Bridgeland Place Mural Committee we would like to thank everyone who participated in order to make this project happen. This started off as a thought, a thought to make this building more beautiful and welcoming for those who live here. We were just getting started when we were told the building was being closed. Families, friends, and neighbors would have to relocate and start over.

The Committee wanted residents to have the opportunity to express themselves through this art project, sort of like leaving a piece of themselves behind so they wouldn't be forgotten. As this was home to many, we have families here, built relationships, and participated in our community. Bridgeland Place wasn't just a building to us, it was our home.

This mural is a piece of each of us and even though it's the end of Bridgeland Place, it's also the beginning of new opportunities to rebuild and to make new lasting relationships once again.

We wish you all much happiness and hope even though you're moving you will stay connected to the people you've built relationships with, after all home isn't a building it's a place where families friends and neighbors come together with the love and care which makes it a home.

Thank you.

Take care and stay safe.”

*(Note: In March, the City of Calgary announced its plan to decommission the Bridgeland Place affordable housing complex over the next two years and look for new homes for the residents of the 210 housing units in the complex.)*

## BRCA Seniors Walk

On October 1, on a beautiful autumn day, a group of Bridgeland seniors gathered for a walk through the community. Titled “Changes Over the Years”, this short walk guided by Deb Lee ended at the BRCA Hall, where the walkers enjoyed delicious coffee kindly donated by Baya Rica and snacks. The conversation and jokes were great.

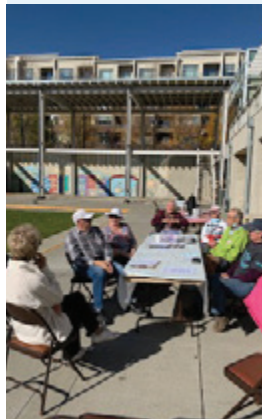


On International Day for Older Persons, we wanted to give back to the seniors in our community. It was so nice to see familiar and new faces. We look forward to a time when we can do this more often. (Maybe we can even plan the gondola ride down the Bow River we discussed!!)

The pandemic has been difficult for so many, but specifically for the large number of seniors in our community. The weekly coffee gatherings had to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions, as was the annual Seniors Luncheon, which is why we walked on International Day for Older Persons.

So, what does the future hold? How can we reconnect with seniors in the community? We conducted a short survey to ask what types of activities and gatherings our seniors might want to see going forward, when

it is safe to gather again. It is a perfect time to revisit, revitalize, and reinvent the BRCA Seniors Program.



If you would like to provide feedback on what types of programs you'd like for seniors, please go to <https://brcacalgary.org/programs/seniors/> to fill out the survey or contact the hall for a paper copy at 403-263-5755.

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BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE

# CALL OUT LOCAL ARTISTS

If you are a local artist and interested in creative initiatives in our community, email [hello@janelmail.ca](mailto:hello@janelmail.ca) to find out how to get on the BRCA art roster!



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Willow Park on the Bow | 30 11 Street NE, Calgary | [silvera.ca](http://silvera.ca)

Willow Park on the Bow is now offering newly renovated, large, light-filled apartments with stunning downtown views. Designed to offer choice, Willow Park continues to offer suites at 11% below average current rental rates for those who qualify. This innovative community supports our philosophy of choice and now also offers extremely well priced active older adult apartments without any qualification process. Specifically designed with older adults in mind, the apartments feature a state of the art appliance package, in-suite washer/dryer, hospitality services, choices in dining and much more!

**Experience this unique and innovative community. Suites are limited.**

# Bridgeland-Riverside Rock Stars!

Susan Mulholland – BRCA Beautification Committee

Over 60 families and friends came out to paint rocks on Sunday, September 12. The Rock Stars day went super smoothly and everyone really enjoyed the event. There was lots of positive feedback about how nice it was to do a community-based art project. A lot of the kids in particular were excited for the future event of going out to find their rocks in the upcoming Rock Hunt!

Artists and creators Vanessa Toews and Ash Adams @superbloomcollective worked with the BRCA Beautification Committee and community Social Worker, Twyla Moon to put this event on. This event was made possible through generous funding provided by the Neighbourhood Grant program. The leadership, expertise, and flexibility Vanessa and Ash brought to this art project were critical in making it so successful and we're very thankful to have collaborated with them. You may have already heard about Vanessa and Ash, as they are the artists painting the colourful butterflies on the side of our local Rehabilitation Society building located at 7 11 St NE.

The theme of the rock painting day was "resilience" – intended to reflect our individual and community strengths given all the challenges over the past year. Over 80 rocks both big and small were painted in brilliant colours and reflect the diversity of our neighbourhood. There's lots of animals (birds, snakes, turtles, hedgehogs, bunnies, frogs, dogs) and watery themes (coral reef, octopus, fish, seagulls), as well as an assortment of other interesting ideas and things (stripes, flowers, bicycle, radio, Calgary Tower, carrots, hearts, rainbows, hands).

## Where and when can I see these beautiful rocks?

This Fall, all the painted rocks will be placed in strategic locations around the neighbourhood for a Rock Hunt!

## Why a Rock Hunt?

To encourage people to get out and explore the neighbourhood and discover new places – parks, arts, and resources.

## Will there be prizes if I find the rocks?

Yes! If you participate in the Rock Hunt you can enter the prize draw!

## How can I learn more?

Stay posted! We'll be sharing details re: the Rock Hunt via the BRCA website and social media.



## Yielding to Emergency Vehicles

For everyone's safety, it is important for motorists to understand how to correctly yield right of way to emergency vehicles with lights and siren active. You can help EMS, police, and fire get to the scene quickly and safely by following these rules of the road.

### When an Emergency Vehicle Approaches with Lights and Siren Activated:

- If you're in the middle of an intersection when an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and siren activated, safely clear the intersection.
- On a one- or two-lane road, motorists should move to the right side of the road, slow down, and then stop, remaining parallel with the road. Remember to signal.
- Move right or left to the nearest curb on 1-way streets.
- On a road with three or more lanes, motorists should move to the nearest side of the road and stop. If driving in the centre lane, move to the right side of the road and stop. Remember to signal.
- Come to a complete stop and wait for the emergency vehicle to pass. Shoulder check for more emergency vehicles before re-entering traffic flow. Remember to signal.
- Emergency vehicles might use any available road space to maneuver. This could include shoulders or turning lanes, etc., in order to pass other traffic.

### When Operating a Vehicle:

- Motorists must reduce speed to 60 km/h or the posted speed, whichever is lower, when passing emergency vehicles or tow trucks that are stopped with their lights flashing. This law applies to the lane(s) immediately next to the stopped vehicles. If you're not in the lane next to the stopped vehicles, it is recommended to reduce speed and leave lots of space between yourself and emergency personnel.
- Do not break the rules of the road in order to give right of way to an emergency vehicle. This could include proceeding through a red light or making an illegal turn. Actions such as these jeopardize all motorists in the area.
- Drivers must place their full attention on the roadway and toward the safe operation of their vehicle at all times. The fine for distracted driving in Alberta is \$300 and three demerit points.
- Do not drive within 150 meters of an emergency vehicle with its siren and/or flashing lights on. For reference, 150m is nearly 1.5 times the length of a football field.

## Update on Bridgeland Riverside Continuing Care Centre Construction

by Cindy Lund, Project Manager, Health Facilities Branch, Capital Projects Delivery Division Alberta Infrastructure

The Bridgeland Riverside Continuing Care Centre project team has collected artwork from local schools and the project team. It will be displayed along the North and West sides of the construction fence. The tower crane is up and will remain in place until 2023. Construction of concrete columns, stairwells, and suspended slabs will be progressing throughout the year. There is no planned road or utility work for this project until next year.

The project team continues to be committed to the community of Bridgeland-Riverside and is available to address concerns which the community may have. Please use the email address [INFRAS.BRCCC@gov.ab.ca](mailto:INFRAS.BRCCC@gov.ab.ca) to forward your comments or concerns and a response will be issued.

Thank you for your patience as construction continues to build a facility the community of Bridgeland-Riverside can be pleased with.

## BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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# An Evolution of Affordable Housing

by Deb Lee, BRCA Heritage Committee



While you would never know it if you happen to walk by today, the development of the southeast corner of Bridgeland-Riverside has taken many years, and a lot of hard work to become the vibrant, inclusive nook in our community that it is today.

The presence of the Calgary General Hospital in Bridgeland (until 1998) and the availability of land on the flat grassy plains north of the Bow River prompted a number of housing organizations and support services to locate in the Riverside area. In 1982, one such organization built housing for seniors on 11A Street just south of McDougall Rd. Then known as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary Association for Senior Citizens, they managed the 10-storey brown brick building with 99 one-bedroom units. It was named 'Columbus Manor' after the Knights of Columbus who provided leadership for the project.

With the Olympic Games of 1988, there was a need to house the media close to downtown. The vacant land adjacent to Columbus Manor was chosen and many small dwellings were built in a village-like setting. After the Games, these self-contained units were converted to Seniors Housing and came to be known as the Columbus Cottages. The short streets connecting the cottages were named for the three ships that carried Christopher Columbus across the ocean – the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. These cottages gradually lost their residents and were last used to accommodate people displaced during the 2013 flood.

The need for more affordable housing continued to increase in Calgary, not only with seniors but with middle-aged people and families. With an updated name, the Bishop O'Byrne Housing for Seniors Association

constructed a 76 unit 4-storey building on 11A St. Named Columbus Place and opening in 2013, it is home to a range of seniors and families. The address for the building is 100 Nina Gardens.

Demand for affordable housing has continued unabated. In 2019, with support from the Calgary Collaborative Capital Campaign for Affordable Housing (formerly known as the RESOLVE Campaign), building commenced on a 104-unit structure on land adjacent to 12 Street. To address present day needs, the units are a range of sizes up to a 4-bedroom apartment and include numerous units that accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Residents started to arrive in May and full occupancy is expected in early 2022. To reflect its broader mandate for affordable housing for people of all ages, the organization updated its name for a third time in its history to 'Forward Housing'.

This southeast corner of our community is becoming a vibrant place. People of all ages now live here, and the newly created park offers the opportunity for mixing and mingling of residents from all of the buildings. (See Park Naming project article where Park #8 is discussed). The benches provide welcome seating for passersby and laughter and children's voices from the nearby preschool, Wee Wild Ones, adds to the scene. Proximity to the CNIB Fragrant Garden is another bonus!

Forward Housing is committed to building natural supports and community amongst their tenants and within the neighbourhood at large. They have worked with several local businesses such as Bridgeland Market, Blush Lane Organic Market, and Starbucks on 1A, who have all joined forces in welcoming our newest community members. Thanks to Catapulta Contracting Ltd. (the Project Managers for Bishops Manor), who donated their time to do the construction with materials donated by Forward Housing, a new "L" wayfinding structure, similar to the ones found along McDougall Rd. has been built and installed. On October 6, the 'Lend a Hand(print)' art event and celebration was held. Participants were invited to coat their hands with paint and leave their prints on the L structure. As can be seen in the cover photo of this issue of Bridges, virtually every inch was covered. We all felt a sense of accomplishment and pride at the completion of this landmark and celebration of the arrival of our new neighbours.

Thanks to the leadership of Forward Housing, the last 40 years have seen amazing changes in this formerly isolated area of Riverside. Plan to take a walk to this lovely area and say hello to our new neighbours! Consider completing a survey for Park #8 and suggest a name for the park.

## Pet Lovers in the Community

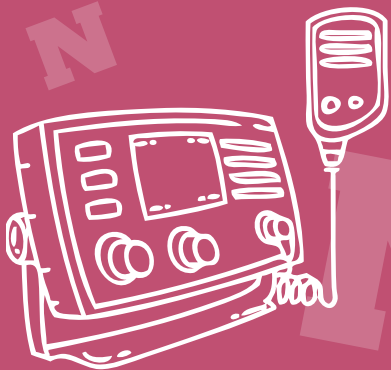


If you have a pet and are struggling to make ends meet, “Pet Food Help and Support” can help you out. This organization is a Facebook group that welcomes help to everyone and is dedicated to feeding hungry pets – one pet at a time. Join this Facebook group today for assistance. Once you reach out for help, an arrangement can be made to get you a monthly supply of much needed food for your fur babies.

Please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/albertapethelp> for more information, and to sign up today!

## N for November

The NATO phonetic alphabet is a very cool way to clarify what you are saying when communicating from far distances, or across devices. November is actually used in the 26-letter alphabet and is the only month of the year to be included.



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📞 403-220-0888

✉️ [len.webber@parl.gc.ca](mailto:len.webber@parl.gc.ca)

Alberta is dealing with the impacts of the fourth wave of COVID-19 and Albertans are bearing the brunt. Our ICUs are overrun, our healthcare system has reached its breaking point, and sadly, the number of Albertans who have lost their lives to COVID-19 continues to grow.

I have heard from constituents who are deeply concerned with the state of our province and how to better protect themselves and their neighbours. Vaccinations are our greatest defense against the severe impacts of COVID-19, as evidenced by the fact that cases requiring ICU attention are overwhelmingly among those who are unvaccinated.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in the official opposition in our calls to increase vaccination rates to protect a greater number of Albertans.

The NDP Caucus has proposed three action items that we believe would help reach unvaccinated Albertans: door-to-door vaccine education and awareness, grants to local community groups interested in starting a vaccine campaign, and research and analysis to understand vaccine hesitancy. Because the best way to reach unvaccinated Albertans is by addressing their concerns directly, as well as combating misinformation by working with community groups and trusted leaders.

Higher vaccination rates will reduce the pressure on our hospitals and help lessen future waves of COVID-19. This work will not be easy, and it will come at a cost, but the cost of doing nothing is far greater. We must bridge the gap and do what we can to support our neighbours, so we can all move forward together.

As always, I'm happy to hear from constituents. Please keep in touch through my constituency office at Calgary. [MountainView@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:MountainView@assembly.ab.ca) or 403-216-5445.



### Take The Time!

This month we honour the service and sacrifice of those who served Canada. We bow our heads and observe a moment of silence not only to commemorate these brave men and women, but to reflect on the paramount importance of the freedoms for which they fought.

It is important to remember that although our reflections may look different this year, as they did last year, their significance remains constant. Regardless of our circumstances, we can always take the time for a personal moment of silence and reflection to honour their memory.

The last two years have been a struggle for so many Canadians, and veterans have not been exempt from the hardships we have faced. Those already struggling before the pandemic may have found themselves in increasingly difficult situations.

I urge those who can donate or lend a helping hand (safely) to do so.

Of course, the easiest way to do this is to purchase a poppy pin in support of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Royal Canadian Legion offers many ways to assist our veterans which are outlined on their website.

For those who want to make a greater contribution, there are volunteer opportunities with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, VETS Canada, and the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary. As the holiday season approaches, a great way of engaging your family with the local community and learning our history is to volunteer together.

Of course, with COVID-19, we must be very mindful of following public health guidance when volunteering with vulnerable populations. However, you can always donate food and household necessities to the Veterans Food Bank of Calgary.

Whether you commemorate together or alone, please know that you are joining millions of folks across Canada to reflect on the sacrifices of our veterans. Lest we forget.





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