

MAY 2022

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# BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE

## BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER





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by Alex MacWilliam

As you can see from the pages of this month's issue of our newsletter, there is a great deal happening in our community over the next few months. The sheer number of notices, "save the dates," and announcements of coming events meant that there was simply not enough room in the space given to us by the publisher for all the submissions I received. Accordingly, I thought I would use my space to highlight a couple of matters of interest that could not be accommodated in their own items this month.

Principal Nancy Gillott has been in touch to bring us news from Riverside School. Students there are involved in a school-wide generative process that will lead to the creation of a new logo and visual identity. An Advisory Group comprised of students, staff, families, community members, and Indigenous leaders is leading the work that will result in the creation of a new visual identity for the school, which will be incorporated into all signage, symbols, and team names. You can track progress on this project on their website at <https://school.cbe.ab.ca/school/riverside/get-involved/community-engagement/pages/our-visual-identity.aspx>. Student artists at Riverside School have also been busy displaying their creative talents on the panels at the AHS long-term facility currently under construction south of Centre Avenue between 9A and 12th Streets. One of their panels is gracing the cover of our newsletter this month and I encourage you to visit the AHS site to see more work from these talented young artists. You can also see the work on your screen by visiting the school's website, which is updated every Wednesday.

I encourage you to renew your BRCA memberships and attend our 2022 Annual General Meeting at the Community Hall on May 26 (details inside this issue). Our Board will be reporting on our work during the past year and on upcoming issues of interest to the community. As you all know, our neighbourhood is constantly evolving and there is no shortage of interesting issues and projects that can engage our residents and our Board. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in getting involved with a particular project or event or in standing for election to the Board on May 26, please contact the Board at [membership@brccalgary.org](mailto:membership@brccalgary.org).

## Window and Balcony Safety

With the return of warmer weather, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and caregivers of an often-overlooked hazard in the home – access to open windows. Every year, paramedics respond to emergencies where a child has fallen from an open window, often from the second floor. These can be avoided by following safety measures. Take the time to assess potential hazards in your home before a preventable fall occurs.

### Windows and Screens

- Prevent access to windows by moving furniture such as cribs, beds, stools, and change tables out from under them.
- Keep drapery cords out of children's' reach. Wrap excess cord around cleats, or tie-downs to avoid a choking hazard.
- Remember, screens are not safety devices. They are designed to keep bugs out, not children in.

### Balconies

- Do not underestimate a child's ability to climb. Furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks can be used to climb resulting in falls over the railing.
- Ensure that your balcony railings are not more than 10 cm (4 inch) apart. This will eliminate access between the vertical bars of a balcony, or deck.

### Further Prevention Tips

- Toddlers and preschoolers are at highest risk of falling from a window, or balcony, but it may happen at any age.
- Direct supervision of children is the single most effective way to prevent falls from windows and balconies.
- Install safety devices which limit the distance in which a window can be open to a maximum of 10cm (4 inches).
- Ensure the safety device can be released quickly, so the window can be used for escape in case of emergency.
- Consider purchasing a portable air conditioner, which will enable windows to stay closed and secure.

EMS is proud to be a member of the Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety. Take time to assess your home for window and balcony hazards and eliminate the risks before a preventable fall occurs.



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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

*For 2022 we will not be charging membership fees but invite members, if they wish, to pay what they can.*

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

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Bridges contains editorial content and information provided by Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association and is distributed free to community residents and businesses 12 times per year. Circulation is approximately 5,100.

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## Season Launch Party Thursday June 23rd, 3:30-7:30pm @ The BRCA Community Hall



Hey neighbours! Join us for our Season Launch Party June 23rd.  
\*Rain or Shine\* We are so excited to see all of you!

**Live Music \* Local Food & Produce \* Artisans  
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# AGM 2022

BRCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Thursday, May 26, 2022  
7 pm at the BRCA Hall  
917 Centre Avenue NE  
[brcacalgary.org](http://brcacalgary.org)

# Building a Greener Community Through Plant Share

by Deb Lee and the Beautification Committee

Bridgeland-Riverside is blessed with a unique plant-growing environment. The escarpment bowl that surrounds us, provides a sheltered microclimate that is less windy and somewhat warmer than many other areas of Calgary. Combined with the fertile soils left by the meandering ancient Bow River, our community is an ideal place to grow plants, as many of the early residents here discovered. Chinese growers cultivated a large market garden and later greenhouses in the area now occupied by Bridgeland Place. The gardens of the German immigrants from Russia provided vegetables

Much has changed since then. The avid gardeners of yesteryear have passed on; backyard gardens have been converted to lawns. The building of larger homes has left less ground available for vegetable gardening. But what hasn't changed is our microclimate, the fertility of our soil or the desire of residents to "grow something". Many of us are new to gardening, but keen to learn the basics and the tricks of growing beautiful plants in whatever space is available. Flowery annuals (those plants that can be bought as bedding plants or grown from seed every year) are one choice but a more enduring option is perennials.

Perennials are a large class of plants that return every spring. Unless the roots have been frozen during an extra bitter winter or they were dug up by the squirrels, they will send up their tender shoots to face a new growing season. Perennials are often quite hardy and expand year over year, either by self-seeding or extending their growth through underground root systems or widening clumps of plants. To maintain the health of the perennials, it is imperative that this growth is managed, often by splitting the plants or digging up new seedlings. And what to do with these extra and often unneeded plants?

That's where Bridgeland-Riverside's Plant Share comes in! This annual initiative, returning this year, is a collaboration between BRCA's Rooftop Garden group and the Beautification Committee. We invite resident gardeners with perennials to dig up their extras, put them in pots or little bags, mark the kind of plant and bring them to the Rooftop Garden area at the Community Centre (917 Centre Ave NE) on Saturday, May 28 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. These young plants are then shared with others keen to start a perennial garden or add to what they already grow. Examples of plants you might see are columbines, yarrow, sedum, perennial grasses, monkshood, and lily of the valley. We also hope to have some small bags of composted soil available for apartment dwellers who focus their efforts on small containers and pots. Donations are gratefully accepted.

This arrangement is win-win but is also part of a growing concept called the sharing economy. It is also a way to meet neighbours with a similar interest in growing and to hear their ideas, and it is an affordable way for Bridgeland-Riverside to become an even more beautiful place to live.



that lasted through much of the winter. After starting the seedlings in a small greenhouse, Italian residents often used their entire backyards to grow lush crops of tomatoes that were then preserved for delicious pasta sauce. Others turned their green thumbs to raise herbs and colourful flower gardens. For many years in the 1990s and early 2000s, a very popular Garden Tour was organized by Devon Blean to highlight the dedicated efforts of gardeners in our community.





# BRIDGELAND WALKS 2022

Starting May 4th join us **Wednesday evenings 7pm** for our walks around the neighbourhood, following a different theme and route each week. **Meet @ Community Centre 918 Centre Ave**

Contact us @ [bridgelandwalks@gmail.com](mailto:bridgelandwalks@gmail.com) to have your email added to the distribution list for our monthly schedule.

## Save the Date: Spring Cleaning – Paper Shredding and Electronics Recycling

**On Saturday, June 17** the Rotary Club Calgary Olympic, with its industry partner Pulp Shred, will be holding a paper shredding and electronics recycling fundraising event. The net proceeds will be used to support refugee families coming to Calgary and District from conflict areas of the world such as Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Syria.

**It will be held at 1815 27 Ave NE from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.** Individuals can bring up to 3 boxes. Donations to this worthy cause will be accepted by cash, cheque, or Visa.

The Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Calgary Italian Cultural Centre, 416 4 Ave NE. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm and the meeting ends by 7:30 pm. The focus of Rotary is to identify and provide support to worthy causes both local and international. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary or suggesting a project can contact Richard Cooke at 403-463-0479 or [cookebiz@shaw.ca](mailto:cookebiz@shaw.ca).

## Another Successful Arctic Adventure

by Megan Clenchy – Events Director

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2022 Arctic Adventure! And what a weekend it was; the sun was shining, sleds were sliding, and adventurers were smiling as they explored Bridgeland with friends and family.



Sledding proved to be a highlight of the weekend, with people of all ages grabbing inflatable donuts and flying down the hill. A special shoutout to our volunteers Sarah and Marlene for their hard work pumping up all the sleds! The BRCA also had a great turnout for the Hall Party; over 250 Bridgeland Cookies were consumed, and beautiful chalk art covered the sidewalks around the Community Hall.

The Rooftop Garden featured an incredible art installation, designed and created by the talented Andrea Lau. The garden came alive with floral designs, putting beautiful iridescent pops of colour into the snowy landscape. The Bridgeland Distillery featured live ice carving and an ice bar.

The BRCA and the BIA collaborated for the social media contest prizes – over \$2,000 in local business gift cards were awarded, and the Scavenger Hunt featured 10 different businesses.

We look forward to continuing the fun next year, so pencil some adventure into your calendars for 2023!



# BRCA SENIORS PROGRAM

**Walking Groups – Every Tuesday 10am @ BRCA Hall (drop in)**

- 4th Tues of the month - Nordic Pole walk 1hr (must register, 12 spaces, starts Apr 26)
- **Come every week and find a group that walks your speed!**

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Phone: 403-263-5755

For more details go to [brcacalgary.org](http://brcacalgary.org)

**Gentle Chair Yoga @BRCA hall**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of the month @ 10am (must register, 10 spaces, starts May 4)

**Presentations, workshops and luncheon dates coming soon.**

**Games Day – cards/board games/ coffee/ snacks @BRCA hall**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month @ 1pm (drop in)

Funding from New Horizons for Seniors Program – Government of Canada



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# Volunteer Profile – Heather Walker

## How long have you lived in Bridgeland-Riverside?

I moved into my Edmonton Trail apartment 5 years ago, but this is actually my third residence in Bridgeland, if I count renting the upstairs of a clapboard on McDougall when I worked as kitchen staff in the General Hospital and pumped gas at the Memorial drive gas station... And I guess the year in the bungalow on the south side of 8th Avenue is kind of technically Bridgeland!

## How did you get involved in volunteering in our community?

I suppose you can blame Councillor Carra for that, as I already knew him in my previous community, and he does try to inform and connect!



## What kind of volunteer activities have you done?

Well, I am a team of two, because I try and include my dog in whatever I can, so I mostly participate in the menial jobs like neighbourhood clean up, daily on my dog walks, and the annual events. I try and stay abreast of the design and input surveys, and I was participating on the

Beautification Committee by doing a bit of weeding and the tree inventory and park naming. I participated on a reconciliation project renaming the local school and last week posted two Valentines on the Bridgeland love wall! So, some rebel, some radical, and lots of grunt work!!!

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

I'm really passionate about our beautiful city: parks, trees and walkways! And now that I'm a granny, more benches and rest stops, too!

## What would you tell others in the community about volunteering?

It's not easy, and it's slower than walking through winter snow drifts, but it is satisfying to "just do the work". I've met so many lovely neighbours discussing improvement opportunities, and such a positive topic.

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

I love the walkability of our 1st Avenue, from Doggywood to Bridgeland Market and all stops in between... Please, please, please find some way to save the Bridgeland Bungalow abandoned school!!!

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# Interested in Trees? Want to Know More About Trees in the Neighbourhood?

**Join us for a Tree Walk on June 15 at 7:00 pm!**

by Laura McLeod and the BRCA Tree Team

The BRCA Walking Group will have a special walk on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm focused on trees in the community. Rain or shine, a City of Calgary Urban Forestry tree educator will lead the walk and share knowledge about our historic, unique, and everyday trees. The walk will start at 7:00 pm near the North/Centre Street entrance to the BRCA Community Hall – look for the niche with the picnic tables just above the hall courtyard area (917 Centre Ave NE).

To start the walk off with some fun, the BRCA Tree Team will be hosting an informal gathering at those picnic tables at 6:30 pm. The tree educator will join us with pamphlets from Urban Forestry on various tree topics, so we hope to see many fellow tree lovers there! We also plan to have some short, fun activities for all ages and always invite you to share your ideas about how to help our Bridgeland Riverside trees thrive. We hope to see you there!



## Interested in a Tree Themed Book Club?

The BRCA Tree Team is wondering if others in the community would be interested in forming a book club to read books that focus on trees. Some examples are *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, and *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, amongst many to choose from.

If you are interested, please email us at [trees@brcacalgary.org](mailto:trees@brcacalgary.org).

\*Please note, all book club meetings will be held virtually until further notice.

## Interested in What Happened to the CNIB Trees?

Many of us were saddened to see that 8 large poplars were recently cut down along the north edge of the CNIB parking area next to 12th St NE. We thought you may be wondering what happened to them too, so we asked the CNIB the reason for their removal. They said the trees were rotted inside, right up to the top including big branches, and posed a large safety hazard. Given the Wee Wild Ones daycare children play in the area, we understand their concern. They have no plans at this time to replant, which could be a challenge given the extensive root systems. Sadly, this is a loss to our canopy coverage. Keep your eyes peeled for a future article discussing how to “keep our canopy”!

## Bridgeland Bit... Trippy Sidewalks

Springtime is a wonderful time to get out and take a walk. The air is fresh, the birds are tweeting, and the leaves are popping out. So many things to take in and enjoy! But... all is not right underfoot. Some sidewalks have tripping hazards at locations that have lifted up or sunk down creating edges from one to three inches tall. A person can trip and fall on these edges and receive injuries ranging from broken bones, sprains, deep bruises, and concussions. Many Bridgeland sidewalks have these tripping hazards. When you spot these hazards, consider taking a photo and reporting them to the City by calling 311 or by the 311 App on your phone. A city crew will inspect and spray paint the edge. The edges will be removed by grinding at a future time. Reporting sidewalk tripping hazards is the neighbourly thing to do to help prevent injuries!



# Bridgeland's Olmsted Legacy

by Deb Lee and the Park Naming Committee

What do New York's famous Central Park and Bridgeland have in common?

It is the well-known Olmsted firm. So how did this prominent American architectural firm end up designing the streetscape in the early days of the working-class community of Bridgeland?

Frederick Law Olmsted started the Olmsted firm in the late 1800s. He was one of the earliest and most well-known pioneers in the new discipline of landscape architecture. In designing Central Park in New York City, the firm established a new way of looking at public spaces, incorporating varied features of the landscape and making parks accessible to people of all classes and incomes. The Olmsted firm went on to design many other innovative parks, including the beautiful Mount Royal Park in Montreal. For more information see <https://olmsted200.org>.



Bridgeland Map with Olmsted Streetscape

The Olmsted firm's Montreal success may have contributed to their contract work in Calgary. The Canadian Pacific Railway, based in Montreal, was building the railway across Canada. To fund this extensive work, the Canadian government offered the CPR title to sections of land adjacent to the railway that could then be sold for housing. Bridgeland was part of this grant along with land in what became the Calgary communities of Mount Royal and Scarboro/Sunalta. While much of Calgary is on flatter land, these CPR owned areas have steep slopes and escarpment areas which are more challenging for street design and home building. The CPR contracted with the next generation of the Olmsted firm to design streetscapes in these communities.

Community development in those days was very class conscious, with clear delineation of who lived where. Mount Royal was designated as an upper-class community and Scarboro/Sunalta was for the middle class. Bridgeland, with its large population of European immigrants on the north side of the Bow River was considered a working-class area and was divided into smaller lots sizes for sale at lower prices.

The majority of streets in Bridgeland followed the usual grid system (with streets running north to south and avenues running east to west), but the Olmsted streetscape design focused on the escarpment slopes north of 5 Avenue (then known as Jamieson Ave) and east of 6 Street. Several avenues such as Bridge Crescent and Drury rise gradually from the lower to upper part of the escarpment. To the east, near Tom Campbell Hill you can still see the sloping Townsend and Thomson streets. Some of the streets in the design were never actualized, likely due to the steepness and composition of the slopes. Parts of this "Bridgeland addition", that are in what is now the community of Renfrew were part of this design. You can still see this in the angled roads north of Centre Avenue and Tom Campbell Hill.

One important feature of the Olmsted streetscapes, especially in the more prosperous neighbourhoods is the presence of parks. Here in Bridgeland a large sloped green space between two sections of Bridge Crescent and 5 Avenue is a significant legacy of the Olmsted design. This green space became part of the conversation with the Park Naming Project over the past year. 'Olmsted Terrace' is the name recommended for this green space as a recognition of the legacy of the Olmsted street design. The Project's Naming Recommendations are currently being reviewed by the city and hopefully will be approved by City Council in the near future.

If you would like to learn more about Calgary's Olmsted legacy, the community of Scarboro is hosting a number of events over the coming months to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. Check out their website for details <https://www.scarborocommunity.com>.

**Bridgeland Walks will be offering a community walk on Saturday, June 4, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.** Join us to hear more about the Olmsted designed streetscapes here. Meet at the Park 5 Ave at 7 St.

## Compassionate Plea to Help Thousands of Children Affected by the War in Ukraine

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*Ukrainian Women Support Network*

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Calgary Confederation  
**Len Webber, MP**  
2020 10 St NW, T2M3M2  
403-220-0888  
len.webber@parl.gc.ca

### Let's Do It for Adam

Nothing is more tragic than losing a child before their time.

In 2019, Martina and Bradley Leinweber went through the unthinkable when their son, Adam, was killed in a gliding accident. A tow plane collided with his glider mere seconds after it was released. The crash happened because the collision avoidance system installed in the tow plane (FLARM) was not operational.

Since 2010, there have been at least 30 confirmed incidents or near-misses involving gliders. Nine of the incidents involved commercial aircrafts. Three resulted in fatalities. Since the accident, Martina and Bradley have made it their mission to ensure that no more Canadians needlessly suffer a similar loss.

Over the last three years, the Leinwebers have been passionate advocates for the use of functional collision avoidance systems for gliding clubs in Canada. Right now, we rely on voluntary compliance. The statistics prove that voluntary compliance is not enough.

In 2021, the Leinwebers requested that I table a petition in the House of Commons on this very issue, and I was honoured to do so. At that time, the Minister indicated that legislation on the issue was not going to be introduced. Fortunately, the Leinwebers had my colleague, Calgary MP Stephanie Kusie, on their side too.

This Spring, Ms. Kusie introduced, and I Seconded, Bill C-259, An Act to amend the Aeronautics Act (collision avoidance system). This Act would require that collision avoidance systems be mandatory and operational for all gliding clubs in Canada.

This should not be a partisan issue: it is about preventing the avoidable and the unthinkable. I expect that all political parties will be supportive of this legislation.

We cannot change the past, but we can change the future. Let's do it for Adam.



**9 PM ROUTINE**

**CHECKLIST**

- Remove valuables & garage door openers from vehicles
- Lock vehicles
- Close overhead garage door
- Lock door between garage & house
- Close & lock all external doors
- Ensure windows are shut
- Turn on exterior light



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