# BRIDGELANDRIVERSIDE

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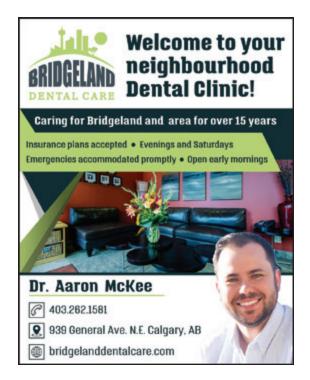


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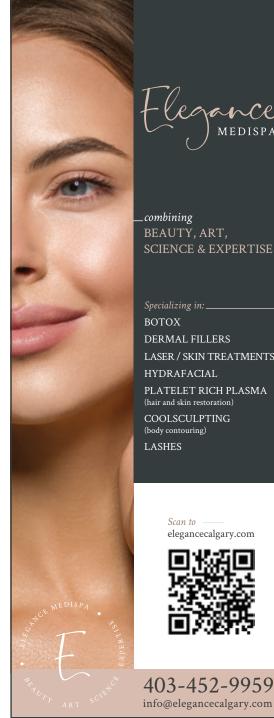
Registration Meeting to take place prior to the program start.

Can't make this one? We have other groups happening all year long, so contact us today!

\*Don't have the technology to connect to the program? Let us know and we can help you get connected!

For more info, contact a program coordinator at 403.205.5294

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#### PRESIDENT/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Alex MacWilliam

The cover of this month's issue (photo taken by our General Manager, Pam Swan) features our brand new Bridgeland Sport Court located in Murdoch Park. It officially opened on September 24, but from the time the fences were removed two weeks earlier, the Sport Court has been in constant use with people of all ages shooting hoops from sunrise to sunset. The Sport Court was an initiative driven by interested residents and is a joint project of the BRCA, Calgary Foundation, Parks Foundation, and the Calgary Flames. In addition to the efforts of these dedicated volunteers and organizations, the Sport Court owes its existence to funding provided by many local businesses and residents. Thank you to everyone involved in this great community outdoor space.

As we move into the fall, we also say thanks to the volunteers, vendors, and entertainers who provided us with delicious food products, crafts, and music at our weekly Farmers' Market. Our Field Day was another successful example of a group of community-minded volunteers creating an event that provided enjoyment for many of our residents, even if Mother Nature did get a little cranky later in the day.

We are hoping to have a busy schedule of events and happenings in the winter and are always looking for volunteers with ideas and enthusiasm. Keep your eyes on our website and social media, and feel free to contact us at events@brcacalgary.org.

## International Day of the Girl

October 11 is International Day of the Girl. The aim of this day is to celebrate and empower young girls while advocating for their rights and recognizing the unique challenges that they face. This October, let's take some time to acknowledge these strong individuals!

#### **Water Your Trees**

by Destiny, Amy, and the Tree Team

The BRCA Beautification Committee Tree Team is supporting trees in Bridgeland-Riverside with ongoing education about the health and decline of tree life in our newsletters and sharing ideas of what you can do to aid in their preservation. We love the trees in your yards and those we share in our larger community and feel that we have a symbiotic relationship with trees as they aid us in so many ways, so we should reciprocate.

The ground has become significantly dryer in Calgary due to the heat waves of the summer months, which has been affecting the trees in boulevards and in parks. As winter approaches, it is important to remember that even though trees remain dormant throughout the winter, they are not immune to cold and dry conditions, and heading into winter with dry roots can mean trouble for the trees in spring.

When there is a deficiency of moisture in the soil, trees are unable to "slurp" the moisture all the way up. It's like drinking water from a straw - when there's less water it's much harder to bring the fluid up into your mouth. To be able to detect a dehydrated tree look out for these signs: sparse on top, if the bark is brittle, buds or branches are stiff, or if the leaves are wilting or dropping.

Continue to water your trees on a regular schedule through the fall and until the ground begins to freeze to protect them through the cold months. Until the frost hits, water trees once a week, slowly - just a trickle for about 30 minutes - under all the area covered by the branches to the edge called the drip line. Areas that are paved or covered by other hard landscape features will not absorb water so it's best to water where it can easily penetrate the soil. For more information about watering, check out the City webpage (calgary.ca) and search for Watering 101.

In addition to watering your own trees, please consider watering the public trees on the boulevards if they look dry. The City waters its new plantings for the first five years to help them get established, but does not water older trees. You can call 311 or use the 311 app to ask the City to water one of the public trees if you are concerned about it.

Help out our trees, they're our neighbours. Without them we'd live in polluted air and not have enough oxygen - our vital energy comes from clean air!

#### **VOLUNTEER PROFILE**

#### **Delshani Peiris**

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

My husband and I moved to Bridgeland over the Canada Day weekend in 2021, during that very memorable heat wave. While the move itself was not pleasant, we fell in love with the neighbourhood



right away. We really appreciate and value the walkability, the numerous parks we can visit with our nieces and nephews, all the ice cream options (visited with and without said nieces and nephews), and how friendly and welcoming everyone we have met has been.

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

Volunteering has always been a central aspect of my citizenship all my life. After exploring and enjoying the community and BRCA events for a year, I knew I wanted to join a BRCA committee to support the community in a more specific way. When a few board positions became available at the last AGM, it felt like a great opportunity.

#### What kind of volunteer activities have you done?

I currently sit as Board Director of Directher Network, which is a non-profit organization that offers learning and networking opportunities for young women in Alberta to build their confidence and knowledge to serve as Board Directors themselves. I have previously served as a Board Director for SIDS Calgary Society and Sexual Health Access Alberta (dissolved in 2010) and an advisory member to the Strong Voices Program at SafeLink (formally HIV Community Link). I volunteered at the Women's Resources Centre at the University of Calgary through my undergraduate degree and for part of my graduate degree and have sat on numerous student and academic committees throughout my academic training.

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

The communities that I live and work in are very important to me. In the future, I want to continue to find space to engage in and support work that

directly contributes to the community connectivity in Bridgeland, empowering young women, STEM for youth, and public health.

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

Once you begin to volunteer with the BRCA, you will realize how far reaching and important the work is. The committees and volunteers are dedicated to improving and uplifting the community for all. We are always looking for new people and new ideas, and the possibilities to volunteer are endless. Volunteering with BRCA doesn't have to be a significant or designated time commitment - the opportunities to volunteer can be and look like whatever you need.

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

Meeting so many new neighbours! This isn't a board or an organization that is made of people from every corner of the city or province, but rather just down the street. It's been wonderful to meet and recognize so many more familiar faces as I walk down the street!

## What is a hidden gem in Bridgeland-Riverside that you have discovered?

After joining the board, I met fellow board member Lourdes Juan for a coffee at a neighbourhood spot I had never been before. It's now been my go-to coffee shop, and on a recent visit I discovered that an old childhood friend who I hadn't seen in decades is a part-owner there! Kismet!





## BRCA SENIORS PROGRAM

BRING A

#### OCTOBER @ BRCA Hall (all activities are free)

- · Art Class with Whitney
  - Watercolour Painting with a Fall Floral Theme
  - Tuesday October 18 @ 1pm
  - Please RSVP only 15 spots
- · Fall Prevention Presentation
  - AHS Bridgeland Seniors Health Clinic
  - Wednesday Oct 26 @ 1pm

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#### COMIC



## Favourite Season

by Joni Righthand

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## Using the 311 App to Notify the City About Issues in Our Community

by Laura, the Tree Team, and the Beautification Committee

As you walk around our neighbourhood, you may see a city tree that looks unwell - maybe a branch is broken and needs pruning, maybe the whole tree looks dead. You may also see litter, overflowing garbage bins, weeds, graffiti, or other concerns that make our community less pleasant. Did you know that you can use the City of Calgary 311 App to report many types of concerns to the City so they can address them? Or you can phone them at 311. The app is called Calgary 311. When you open the home screen, click on 'New Request'. You will see a list of topics, which vary with the seasons. Currently they are:

Top Seasonal Services Inspection
Emergency Road

Long Grass, Weeds, Boulevards Sidewalks, Pathways, Bike Lanes
Animal Conc erns Signs, Lights, Traffic Signals

Buildings, Fences, Structures Taxi, Limousine

Bylaw Infractions Transit
Garbage or Untidy Property Trees, Shrubs
Graffiti Water, Sewer

Under each heading you will find subtopics to click on. This article will focus on tree issues, but all the above community concerns can be reported. At the time of writing, Tree Maintenance – City-Owned is under Top Seasonal Services at the top of the list. Under Trees, Shrubs you will find four topics - Tree Protection During Construction; Trees, Shrubs - Bylaw Offence; Shrubs, Flowers, Leaves in a Park - Maintenance; and Parks - Branching Out Tree Program (the free tree program we told you about in the spring).

If you want to report a concern about a tree, once you click on the topic, you will be asked to add a photo - you can take a photo right and then add it or add an existing photo from your photo file. You will be asked for the location - you can drag the map around to pinpoint it and give the nearest address. Then you type in whatever the concern is. You have a choice whether to make your report public or not, and it doesn't share your name with the public either way.

The Urban Forestry team will often call you a few days later to let you know what they did about your report. We found out that they don't spray pesticides, so there is no point in reporting trees that look like they have infections, unless the tree looks unhealthy.

Thanks for reporting concerns about our trees to the City! If we are all keeping our eyes on our trees, the City can do a better job of maintaining them, so we and future generations can continue to enjoy them.

# keep our community clean and beautiful



## pick up after your pooch

## Heterochromia

Have you ever seen a person or animal with two different eye colours? Heterochromia is the medical term for this phenomenon. It's caused by a lack of the

pigment melanin in one eye or a portion of it. Interestingly, heterochromia is more common in animals than humans!



## **Beacon Original Art**



Annual Fall Show & Sale Saturday October 15 Sunday October 16, 2022



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## BRCA Hall 917 Centre Ave NE Calgary Free Parking & Admission, Draws & No GST

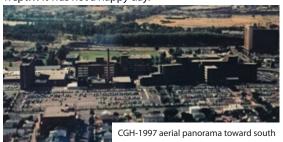
Beacon Original Art returns to the BRCA Hall on October 15 and 16 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for its Annual Fall Show and Sale. Connect with local emerging and professional artists showing paintings, jewelry, glass, photography, ceramics, sculptures, and textiles. There will be different artists in attendance each day with free admission, draws, and no GST. We hope to see you!

## The End of the Calgary General Hospital ... and its Legacy

by Deb Lee, BRCA Heritage and CGH Commemoration Project Committee

The morning of Sunday, October 4, 1998, was a sunny, crisp day, ablaze with the golden colours of the autumn leaves. Thousands of Calgarians had gathered on our community's upper escarpment along 7 Avenue and Tom Campbell's Hill. Others watched out their windows in downtown high rises. A no-fly zone had been declared over this part of the city but that didn't stop a hot air balloon from drifting into the area. The people waited. What was happening?

Calgarians were here to see the final chapter of the 88-year-old Calgary General Hospital. Shortly after 9:00 am, a button was pushed, the carefully laid explosives were detonated and the hospital imploded, completely falling to the ground in moments. The smokestack was the last to go. The crowds were mostly silent, some people wept... it was not a happy day.



The 900-bed hospital's fate had been decided in the late 1990s. In an atmosphere of cost-cutting, the General and two other Calgary hospitals (Holy Cross and the Grace) were closed after it was determined that Calgary had too many hospital beds. The others were sold but the General was slated for demolition. Patients and staff were transferred over to the Peter Lougheed Hospital, and the doors of the hospital closed in late 1997. The next year was spent removing equipment, asbestos, and other materials in preparation for the implosion.

The implosion of the Calgary General Hospital's more than 20 separate structures gained us the distinction of having the largest hospital to be closed. It also left our city without downtown emergency services. The implosion included an area of 84,000 square meters using 2,300 kilograms of explosives and earned accolades for the demolition experts. You can watch the CTV coverage at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13C6fMwGmWo.

The community had a role to play as well. With the hospital sitting in the middle of our residential and business community, safety measures had to be put in place. Irene Hammerling, whose father was a resident of the nearby Crossbow Care Centre, was a committee member and well remembers the careful planning and logistics. Large steel containers lined the streets and heavy tarps were brought in to blanket nearby homes and businesses, protecting them from the impact and from potential debris. An evacuation centre was available for those from nearby homes. Fortunately, the implosion went without incident.

Today the only reminder of the 900-bed hospital is the memorial wall emerging from the Centre Avenue promenade, inscribed "Calgary General Hospital 1910-1998." Since that time, 24 years ago, our community has become home to many new people, most of whom have no memory or knowledge about the hospital's significance and its 88-year long presence here.

To remedy this gap and the loss of remembrance of this important city landmark, BRCA has initiated the Calgary General Hospital Commemoration Project. A Committee of volunteers is working toward some noteworthy improvements to the west end of Murdoch Park along the Centre Avenue Plaza between 7A and 8 Streets. Features of the project will include plaques that will tell the story of the General, along with a gazebo, additional seating, lighting, and gardens. The Parks Foundation is supporting the project.

We are raising funds for this project. Anyone wishing to remember "The General" can make a donation to the Commemorative Project by checking out the BRCA website at www.brcacalgary.org or the Parks Foundation Calgary website https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ParksFoundationCalgary/communityprojects.html.

Tax deductible receipts will be provided. Email us at cghproject@ brcacalgary.org for more information. It's important to ensure that a significant part of our community's history is recognized and shared with all Calgarians.



#### **SAFE & SOUND**

## **Halloween Safety**

by Alberta Health Services



The members of Calgary's Partners for Safety: Calgary's Child Magazine, AHS EMS, Calgary Police, Fire, 911, Bylaw, and Transit would like to remind parents and trick-or-treaters of some Halloween safety tips as October 31 approaches. Partners for Safety vehicles will be out patrolling communities on Halloween night to provide a visible safety resource for parents and trick-or-treaters.

#### Trick-or-Treaters

- Remember: All regular pedestrian rules still apply. Be sure to cross the road at marked crosswalks, or well-lit corners only. It is safest to work your way up one side of the street, and then cross once to the other side.
- Avoid houses that are not well lit. Do not accept rides from strangers or enter any home you feel is unsafe.
- Let your parents know where you are going to be at all times (route) and advise them if you will be late returning.

#### **Parents**

- Be certain that young trick-or-treaters are accompanied by an adult. Older children should stay in groups.
- Pre-determine boundaries to trick-or-treat within and establish a firm time to return home.

• Advise children not to eat anything until they return home. Dispose of any items that appear to have been tampered with, or that are not properly wrapped.

#### Costumes

- Choose bright coloured costumes that are highly visible. Adding reflective tape to costumes further increases visibility.
- Consider sending your children with a flashlight for additional safety and increased visibility.
- When purchasing or making costumes, look for materials and accessories that are labeled flame-resistant.
- All costume accessories, such as sticks, rods, or wands, should be soft and flexible, with no sharp edges.
- Consider using hypoallergenic make-up kits instead of masks that may impair breathing, or vision.
- Be sure costumes are loose enough to be worn over warm clothing, but not so long that they become a tripping hazard. Costumes should not be longer than your child's ankles.
- Ensure your child is wearing adequate footwear that takes into consideration weather conditions and walking.











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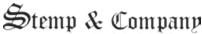
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## **Mary Ann Shadd Cary**

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