

JANUARY 2023

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BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE BRIDGES

THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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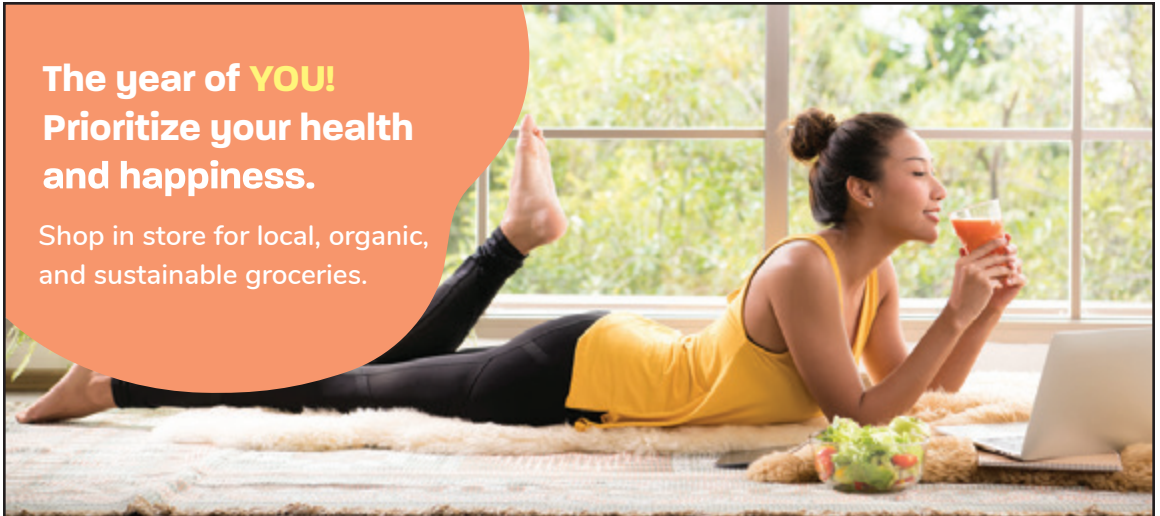


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PRESIDENT/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

On November 28 at 4:30 in the morning, the Calgary Fire Department responded to a call from a person who noticed smoke and fire coming from the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Centre. The fire was extinguished but not before it had heavily damaged a portion of the building. Thankfully, there were no occupants in the building at the time of the fire. Security camera evidence indicates that the fire was likely started a few hours earlier by an unhoused individual sheltering under the exterior stairs next to the west side of the building (the temperature that evening was -12°C with a strong north wind). That person fled the scene as the fire grew and does not appear to have been injured by the fire.

Early estimates peg the damage to the building at roughly \$250,000 and it will take several months for repairs to be completed. In the meantime, the hall remains closed for the next few months, with the result that event and program bookings have been cancelled and groups and individuals have had to find other venues. Our general manager has been working tirelessly to assist parties in making alternate arrangements, in addition to dealing with CFD, the Calgary Police Service, insurers, contractors, and the City of Calgary (the owner of the building).

While this is an extremely unfortunate event for both the BRCA and those using the hall, we have been moved by the expressions of support we have received from many individuals, companies, and organizations. Within the first 24 hours of the fire, we were contacted by representatives of the Bridgeland Business Improvement Area, the Calgary Italian Cultural Centre, JEMM Properties, Servus Credit Union, the Alexandra Centre Society, the Bridgeland Campus Centre Street Church, and our liaison at the City of Calgary. In addition, there has been an outpouring of support on social media.

The hall is the heart of the BRCA and our primary source of income. It is also a very important gathering place for numerous groups and organizations. We are doing our best to assist our users with finding other locations to meet, pending completion of the repairs. The Farmers Market had a holiday market scheduled for five days after the fire. The Centre Street Church immediately came to its rescue and provided space at their Bridgeland Campus for this event to take place as well as offering to host our Seniors' Holiday Social at no cost. Thank you to Lawrence Irwin, Andrea and Paul Lau, and others at CSC

for demonstrating the true spirit of community. Thanks also to Edan Lindenbach at JEMM Properties for his kind offer to host our board meetings in their Bridge building while repairs are taking place.

In my column in last month's newsletter, I focused on our community's quirkiness. We are certainly that but we are also a kind, caring community. It is times like this where these characteristics come to the forefront and when they are most appreciated.



To end on a positive note, I want to recognize one of our long-time residents who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Doris Endre resides at Columbus Manor and lives independently, doing her own housekeeping and shopping. Doris is a commissioned painter (one of her paintings is in the photo) and a published author and poet. Happy 100th Birthday, Doris, from the BRCA. You are a great member of our community and an inspiration to us all.

Alex MacWilliam



Registration for BRCA Youth Soccer Program Coming February 2023!

Hello Neighbours!

Registration for Bridgeland's community soccer program will be from February 8 to March 8, 2023. We will have U4 through U13 mixed soccer programs that will run from April 24 to June 22. Our program depends on our amazing parent volunteers signing up to help support the program. More details to follow.

Contact soccer@brcacalgary.org for more information.

See you on the field!



Call for Submissions Annual Spring Art Exhibition & Sale April 22 & 23, 2023 - Calgary

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Bridgeland Arctic Adventure



JANUARY 20-22, 2023

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OR FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE DETAILS

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Newsletter	Alex MacWilliam newsletter@brcacalgary.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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



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

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BRCA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Arctic Adventure planning (Nov/Dec/Jan)
- Arctic Adventure event –Jan 20-22 – set up/tear down, etc
- Pub Night Committee – ongoing
- BRCA Events Committee – ongoing
- BRCA Hall Skating Rink – rink flooding/shoveling/maintenance (Nov-Feb)
- Farmers Market –winter season volunteers – ongoing

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want more information,
email membership@brcacalgary.org or go to www.brcacalgary.org


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"The BRCA bridges people through engagement across the past, present, and future."

It's time to **RENEW** your **BRCA Membership for 2023**

- ❖ 2023 BRCA Membership fees have been waived!
- ❖ You can make a donation when you renew, which goes towards amazing community programs, activities, and events! *See details online.*
- ❖ Levels: Individual, Family, Senior

(Current memberships expire: Dec 31, 2022)

Renew at www.brcacalgary.org

**BRCA**
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JOIN BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Are YOU passionate about Bridgeland-Riverside and want to help make it even better? Then we'd love to hear from you as we have openings on our board of directors. It's a great way to give back to your community and meet your neighbours who share your passion.

Simply email membership@brcacalgary.org with your interest.
Look forward to hearing from you!

**BRCA**
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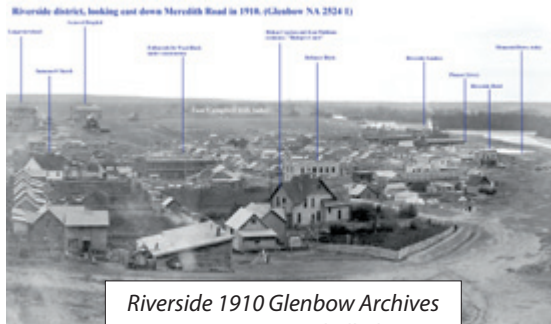
Remembering Riverside

by Deb Lee, Heritage Committee

The North-West Mounted Police arrived in the area known by the local indigenous peoples as Mohkinstsis, and now called Calgary, in 1875, first viewing the Bow River valley from the northern escarpment. They rode down and crossed the shallow area of the river, establishing Fort Calgary, which was soon followed by a permanent settlement nearby inhabited by predominantly Scottish and English settlers. The railway arrived in 1883, bringing trainloads of new people to build their lives in the Canadian west. The first wooden bridge over the Bow River was built in 1888, an improvement from the privately-operated ferry crossing. Stagecoaches and wagon trains plied the trail northward to Edmonton. After the Canadian government issued an invitation overseas for people to settle the vast prairie area, Calgary experienced a great influx. Many immigrants from Europe, including Ukrainians, Italians, and Germans from Russia settled on this north side area of the Bow River that was known as Riverside. There was such a predominance of Germans that the neighbourhood came to be informally known as 'Germantown.'

The early 1900s saw significant growth in Calgary, including on the north side of the river, with the village of Riverside being formally established in 1903. Streets were laid out on the NS-EW grid system and named after early Calgary mayors such as Ramsey and Marsh or given German names such as Berlin and Munich. Riverside's boundaries extended from the Bow River as far north as 8 Avenue. Modest homes and shacks were built on 25-foot lots.

Riverside village flourished with businesses such as Pioneer Stables, Riverside Lumberyard, Riverside Ironworks, and Riverside Steam Laundry built west of 4 Street. Wesley Orr, a future mayor of Calgary, operated a sandstone quarry from 1886 to 1890 and a brothel was an attraction in the area of McDougall and 6 Street. Downtown Calgary's significant growth extended across the river, resulting in larger buildings such as Riverside Hotel being built. Those that we still see today are the Armour/Reliance and Poffenroth/DeWaal Blocks with the original Sligsby Block (now Bratopia) covered up by modern features. Storefronts occupied the main floors while residential units were upstairs. Banks, shoe repair, barber shops, small grocery stores, and a billiard hall provided services to new residents. Today, the art on



the windows of the Armour Block shows scenes of past days, including a speakeasy and synagogue. Further north, the Gallelli Block and Roma Grocery added to the vibrant retail corridor that developed along 4 Street. Riverside's mix of Jewish, Italian, German, Ukrainian, and Chinese residents, living and working side by side created a diverse and interesting part of Calgary. It also led to discrimination as the presence of immigrants who spoke different languages did not fit with the sensibilities of the earlier Scottish and English settlers.

Progress continued as Riverside was formally annexed to Calgary in 1910. The new steel truss Langevin Bridge (recently renamed Reconciliation Bridge) enabled Calgary's municipal streetcars to cross the river. One route turned east on Louisa Avenue (now First Avenue) and extended to the Calgary General Hospital in the nearby but separate community of Bridgeland. The large sandstone Riverside Public School opened on 1 Ave at 6 St, and later, the Riverside Bungalows 1 and 2 were built to accommodate the growing number of school-age children here.

The pace of immigration and development slowed significantly after the start of World War I, but Riverside and 4 Street remained a vibrant business district and transportation corridor for many decades. The two communities of Bridgeland and Riverside grew together, with boundary lines fluctuating and eventually becoming indistinct. The Bridgeland-Riverside Athletic Association, a precursor to the current Community Association, brought residents together through sports and recreation.

In recent decades, the name of 'Riverside' has declined in our awareness and it risks being forgotten. Stay tuned next month to learn more about Riverside's heritage and its coming renaissance.

Thank you to Alan Zakrisson for research assistance.

Fly Safely on Your Vacation

from the Better Business Bureau



Are you thinking about traveling by air for a few days?

Before Clicking the Button to Buy Tickets, BBB Recommends the Following:

- Check current requirements for domestic and international travel. In Canada, look for Canadian travel advisories.
- Make sure everyone who is traveling has the appropriate ID. Make certain parties traveling together have a current compliant ID as required by the provinces or countries you're traveling to.
- Read all cancellation policies carefully. Not all situations require a full refund of the ticket value and fees if your flight is canceled. Each online travel agency, airline, and broker is different.
- Book tickets only after reviewing travel restrictions. Save time and stress by reading the updated status of restrictions on the Health Canada website.
- Consider trip insurance. Have a complete understanding of what the policy does and does not cover.

- Be an informed traveler. Refer to the Department of Transportation website for details on consumer issues, filing complaints, and other aviation information.
- Avoid hidden fees. Read the fine print!

Flying isn't the only aspect of your trip to consider.

Here Are Some Other Travel-Related Resources from BBB:

- **Rental cars:** Make your next car rental experience a little easier.
- **Hotel rooms:** Learn what to keep in mind when booking a hotel room.
- **Travel agents:** Know what to look for in a travel agent and find one near you.

During the holiday or any time of year, find ways to travel safely and avoid scams. If you plan to travel to or from Canada, check for travel advisories. Remember to report any suspicious activities to BBB Scam Tracker and sign up for Scam Alerts.

For more information go to [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org).

Sledding Safety

by Alberta Health Services, EMS



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and children about a few toboggan/sledding safety tips as the winter season continues. Injuries may result from collisions with stationary objects on the hill, such as trees, poles, rocks, or even collisions with other people. Unprotected falls can also result in more serious injury if you lose control at high speeds. However, everyone can be safe and have fun on the toboggan hill by following these reminders.

Equipment

- Always ensure your toboggan, or sledding device, is in good repair. Inspect it for any damaged or missing parts before each use.
- Be certain the operator is fully capable of staying in control of the sled at all times.
- Wear a ski helmet, designed for use in cold weather and high speeds.

Hazards

- Avoid hills that are too steep or too icy.
- Choose hills free of all obstacles such as trees, rocks, utility poles, benches, or fences.
- Beware of loose scarves, or clothing containing drawstrings, which could present a strangulation hazard if they become caught or snagged.

- Look out for others. Move quickly to the side after finishing a run and stay to the side of the sliding path when walking up the hill.
- Children should be supervised by an adult; never toboggan alone.
- Tobogganing at night is not advised.

Plan Ahead

- Dress warmly in layers and anticipate weather changes.
- Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange wet garments for dry ones.
- Take breaks out of the cold to warm up.
- Attempt to cover any exposed skin.
- Even when properly protected from the elements, the fingertips, toes, ears, the tip of the nose, and other high points on the face, such as the forehead and cheek bones can be affected by frostbite.
- If frost bite has occurred, treat it by first removing the individual out of the cold environment. Gently warm the affected skin by placing a warm hand over it, or by placing the affected part in warm - not hot - water, until re-warmed.



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