

JANUARY 2024

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THE OFFICIAL BRIDGELAND-RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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**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](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 5,820.

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## PRESIDENT/EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Leap Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and have planned how you are going to spend the extra day that 2024 is bringing us.

Looking ahead, in addition to continuing to provide our regular programs and events such as the Farmers' Market, Arctic Adventure, Seniors' lunches and kids soccer, the volunteers on the BRCA Board and its committees are hoping to add regular community information sessions to our calendar. These events will be intended to provide opportunities for community members to learn about various issues affecting our neighbourhood and allow for an exchange of views in an open, non-partisan format.

This initiative springs from events like the information session provided in Bridgeland by the Calgary Drop-In Centre last year. More recently, at the Community Hall in late November, we hosted a presentation by Safelink Alberta, an organization working to reduce risks associated with sexual activity and substance use. Around forty residents attended and heard from four very dedicated and knowledgeable Safelink representatives. Attendees asked questions and shared views on a number of issues including drug poisoning, mental health, homelessness, and social disorder. Safelink said they would be pleased to present further on any of these issues and others that relate to the work they are doing.

It is no secret that property crime continues to be a problem impacting residents and businesses in our community, as is the case throughout Calgary. I recently spoke to the media about a rash of break-ins at a number of businesses and took the opportunity to mention an arrangement the BRCA had recently entered into with the Calgary Police Service. This pilot project will see CPS set up a community engagement hub in the Hall one day per week. The purpose is to increase the visibility of uniformed police officers in the neighbourhood and provide an opportunity for members of the public to interact with CPS members. CPS expects to launch this project this month. We welcome this opportunity to work with CPS to reduce crime in our community.

Stay tuned for further details of future information sessions on issues of interest to the community. On behalf of the BRCA Board, I wish you all a safe and healthy 2024.



Arctic Adventure

# SAVE THE DATE

BRIDGELAND ARCTIC ADVENTURE WILL BE RUNNING FROM FEBRUARY 9 TO FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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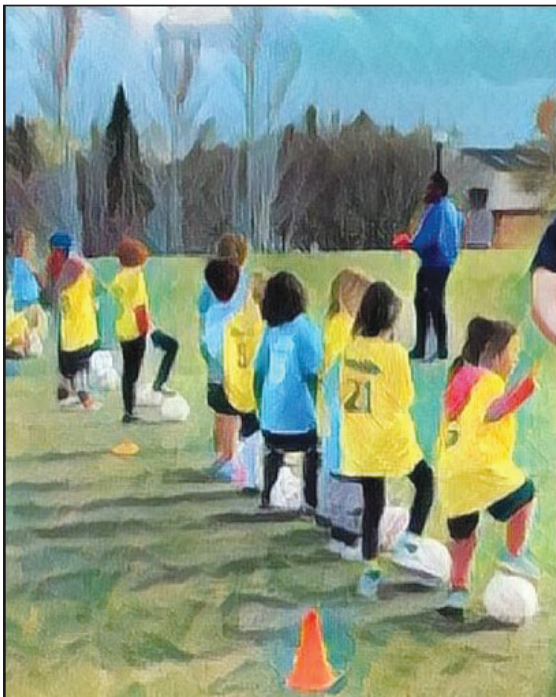
# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR

## BRCA PLANNING COMMITTEE

ROLES INCLUDE:

- BRCA PLANNING DIRECTOR AND RESIDENTIAL PLANNING CHAIR (BOARD POSITION)
  - COMMERCIAL/LARGE PROJECT PLANNING CHAIR/VOLUNTEER
  - COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS
- 
- FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ROLE, GO TO [BRCACALGARY.ORG/CONNECT/VOLUNTEER-OPPORTUNITIES/](https://BRCACALGARY.ORG/CONNECT/VOLUNTEER-OPPORTUNITIES/)
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<b>SENIORS ADVANCED</b> MONDAYS 11:00AM - 12:15PM JAN 8 - FEB 12 FREE EMAIL OR CALL TO REGISTER	<b>SENIORS YIN YOGA</b> FRIDAYS 11:00AM - 12:15PM JAN 12 - FEB 16 \$78 REGISTER ONLINE	<b>SENIORS QI GONG</b> WEDNESDAYS 1:30 - 2:45PM JAN 10 - FEB 14 \$78 REGISTER ONLINE

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The Bridgeland sign has been repaired, but we're still loving all the creative alterations that were made while it was broken. In celebration of this wonderful community spirit we are selling t-shirts and tote bags.

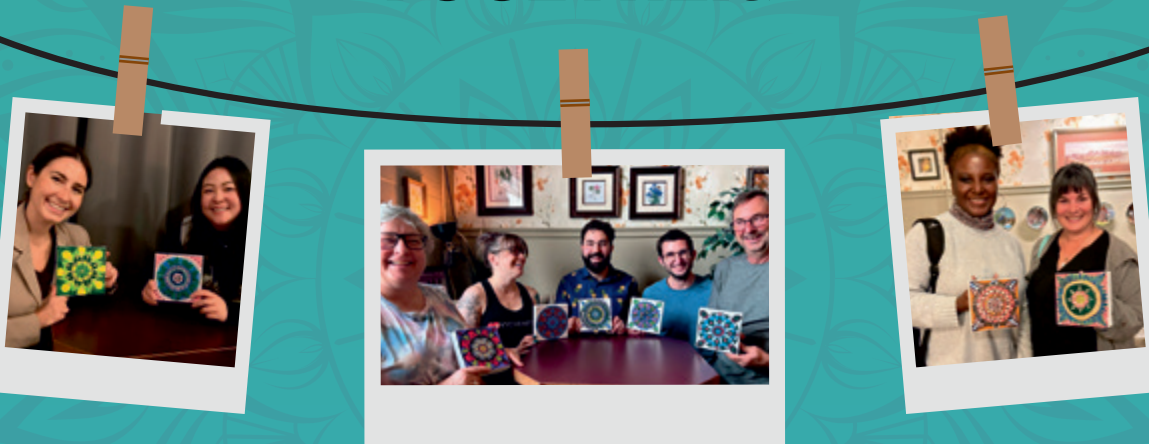
T-shirts are \$30 and available in four colours  
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This project is funded by the Calgary Arts Development Project Grant



# Calgary General Hospital Number Three Opens in 1910

The most recent hospital to be built in Calgary is the South Health Campus, at the southern edge of the city. This massive structure opened in 2012. Farmers' fields initially surrounded the new hospital as construction started and soon it became part of the skyline. It wasn't long before the nearby neighbourhood was filled with the homes and shopping malls we see today.

When the Calgary General Hospital Number Three was being constructed in 1909, it too was on the edge of the city. Facing south and perched on the top of the Bow River escarpment, it could be easily seen from the more heavily populated south side of the Bow River. The hospital was in the newly annexed community of Bridgeland. While streets had been established in the community, the population was small and there were few homes built at that time (as you can see in the photograph).

The General Hospital was built to serve a growing Calgary population (40,000) and was much celebrated when it opened on a sunny February 1, 1910. People crossed the newly replaced Langevin (now called Reconciliation) Bridge, with over 1500 in attendance. Lieutenant Governor Bulyea officiated, and the Calgary Rifles Band provided the music with the Ladies Aid serving a luncheon. It was exciting and all were impressed with the spacious and clean new facility.

The hospital was five storeys tall, with a central core and two wings and accommodated 160 patients. It was said to be the largest and most modern hospital in the province, having features such as elevators, telephones, and patient call bells, as well as running water. There was a designated operating room with state-of-the-art equipment.

The matron, Miss Scott had small supervisory staff and 25 student nurses. Because of the large size of the new hospital, she also supervised the separate departments of laundry and dietary as well as the maintenance department which oversaw the high-pressure boilers that provided the heat. The nurses and students were all housed in the upper floors of the hospital.

With the opening of CGH Number Three, Calgary moved into the modern era for medical and health care. Stay tuned for more stories about the evolution of CGH Number Three. We will be hosting several information sessions about the General's history and the proposed Commemoration project.



*Happy Birthday, Jim!*

On January 17, 1962, a comedic legend was born in Newmarket, Ontario. The star of hit movies like *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *The Mask*, and *Dumb and Dumber*, Jim Carrey will turn 62 years old this year. Can you believe he has been gracing our screens since 1981 when he played Tony Caroni in *Janet*?

## Guess the Sport!

1. This is commonly known as the only sport that has been played on the moon.
2. This incredibly physical two-person activity is considered the world's oldest sport.
3. In this sport, goal posts are painted yellow.
4. In \_\_\_\_\_, a score of zero is called "love".
5. An elegant show of talent, this is the oldest winter Olympic sport.
6. When you miss three times in a row, it's called a turkey in this sport.



## How to Stop Porch Pirates in Their Tracks

by Irene Hammerling

Porch pirates' prey on unattended packages and deliveries. A 2019 survey conducted for FedEx found one in four Canadians has had a package swiped. In Alberta, the number is even higher at one in three. The pandemic exacerbated the situation, as more Albertans than ever are shopping online and receiving deliveries. But you can stop thieves in their tracks. Take these extra steps to protect your parcels:

- If you are not home, ask a neighbour, a friend or family member to drop by and receive it for you.
- Video doorbells let you see, hear, and speak to visitors at your door through an app, whether you are at home or away.
- Some smart home locks let you lock and unlock doors with your phone, and feature apps that log who comes and goes based on personalized codes. Others feature keyless touchpads or will automatically lock/unlock when you (and your phone) move outside a predefined perimeter.
- Install a porch safe or a secure lock box.
- Opt for a "Ship to Store" or Canada Post Office pickup.
- Require signature on delivery or have the package delivered to your workplace.
- Ask that the package be left out of plain view. It can be good to establish a delivery spot that is obscured from view by other objects or landscaping.

There are a variety of commercial products available to help safeguard your packages and deliveries, including lockable delivery boxes and smart doorbells with built-in cameras. Amazon, Canada Post, and some other companies offer 24-hour electronic smart lockers, usually in multi-residential buildings or retail stores, where you can have your purchases securely stored until you are ready to pick them up. Many home security companies also provide their customers with signs to place on the front yard.





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## Telling the Story of the Calgary General Hospital 1910 – 1998

Join us for a Presentation!  
Bridgeland Riverside Community Centre  
917 Centre Avenue NE

Hear about the evolution of the Calgary General Hospital from its very humble beginnings to 1998. Share your memories of the hospital. Hear about the plans to commemorate the General Hospital in Bridgeland – creating a place to pause and remember and to learn about the Hospital's important role in health care over its many years serving Calgarians.

January 29, Monday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

February 13, Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

March 14, Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

April 24, Wednesday, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

May 14, Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

June 6, Thursday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Parking available in the lot off 9 St to the south of the hall or arrive by C-Train – Blue line Bridgeland Memorial Station or Bus #90

Contact us at [cghproject@brcacalgary.org](mailto:cghproject@brcacalgary.org)

# Descendants of Early Settlers Continue to Meet

by Mabel Kiessling, BRCA Heritage Committee

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) is an associated Society dedicated to preserving the history of the Germans who were called to Russia by Catherine the Great and Tsar Alexander I in the 1700s. They lived in several different settlements in Russia for several hundred years and maintained their German culture and language. In the late 1800s these people were pushed out of Russia. Many came to North America and some of them came to Calgary from the 1890s onward and settled in Bridgeland – Riverside. Because of the large number of Germans who settled here, the community was known as Germantown in those early days.

We continue to meet and research our family histories. Our Library and meeting space are located at Ascension Lutheran Church. The library is open by appointment on the second Tuesday of each month.

Join us at our January 20, 2024, meeting, with lunch at noon and demonstrations on canning and preserving.



## Bridgeland Real Estate Update

### Last 12 Months Bridgeland MLS Real Estate Sale Price Update

	Average Asking Price	Average Sold Price
November 2023	\$ 416,500	\$ 410,000
October 2023	\$ 372,450	\$ 372,350
September 2023	\$ 474,950	\$ 475,000
August 2023	\$ 389,900	\$ 381,750
July 2023	\$ 469,900	\$ 478,500
June 2023	\$ 350,000	\$ 346,000
May 2023	\$ 380,000	\$ 375,000
April 2023	\$ 323,950	\$ 322,500
March 2023	\$ 389,450	\$ 377,500
February 2023	\$ 417,400	\$ 407,350
January 2023	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000
December 2022	\$ 332,400	\$ 325,850

### Last 12 Months Bridgeland MLS Real Estate Number of Listings Update

	No. New Properties	No. Properties Sold
November 2023	16	18
October 2023	25	18
September 2023	22	12
August 2023	21	24
July 2023	23	19
June 2023	31	21
May 2023	23	28
April 2023	24	22
March 2023	23	18
February 2023	14	16
January 2023	30	19
December 2022	9	12

## BRAIN GAMES SUDOKU

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

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To view more detailed information that comprise the above  
MLS averages please visit [brid.mycalgary.com](http://brid.mycalgary.com)

# Sledding Safety

by Alberta Health Services

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.



# Winter is the Best Time to Prune Your Trees

by the BRCA Tree Team

Did you know that trees should be pruned in winter when they are not putting their energy into growing? Now is the time to consider pruning your trees.

Newly planted trees should not be pruned until their second or third year unless you are only removing dead or broken branches. Pruning dead, diseased, or damaged branches of mature trees can also be done any time of year, but pruning to control growth or to shape the tree is best done on a mild day in winter. This includes removing suckers (branches growing up from the base of the tree), branches that cross each other (that will eventually cause damage), and branches that are close to your home or crossing into your neighbour's yard, as well as pruning to give the tree a better overall shape and structure.

Deciduous trees are best pruned from February to April, inclusive. There is a City of Calgary ban on pruning elms in the spring and summer to avoid spreading elm diseases. Elms can be pruned only from October 1 to March 31. Different types of evergreen trees have different pruning periods: spruce and fir should be pruned January through March. Pines are the exception - they are best shaped in June and July when they get their new growth "candles".

The City of Calgary has lots of resources on how to prune your trees! You can check the website at [calgary.ca/property-owners/tree-care](http://calgary.ca/property-owners/tree-care) where you can click the link for Backyard Tree Pruning Tips to see a YouTube video that shows you what tools you need and how to prune, or you can scroll down to Fall and Winter Tree Care, for text instructions. These are the references used for this article, as well as the International Society of Arboriculture's site [treesaregood.org/treeowner](http://treesaregood.org/treeowner) which also has detailed information on pruning as well as other tree care topics.

The City trees on our boulevards, medians, and parks are pruned by the City's Urban Forestry team, so if you think one of these trees needs pruning, please send them a 3-1-1 report by app or phone.

## BRCA Tree Team Book Club update

We recently read *Tracking Giants: Big Trees, Tiny Triumphs and Misadventures in the Forest*, by Amanda Lewis, about the author's attempt to find the largest tree of each species

in BC. Her quest gradually evolved, and she learned to appreciate the complexity of the forests she visited. It was interesting to discover that BC has a large registry of these "Champion Trees", so we looked to see if Alberta has one as well. It does, but the registry isn't a list of the champions and there are only 39 trees on the registry, only one of which is nearby.

We are eager to explore a book with a plot again after the last two non-fiction books, so our next read will be *Greenwood* by Michael Christie, an award-winning multi-generational novel that follows a family that built its wealth on logging. Then we're back to non-fiction with Suzanne Simard's *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*. This book was referenced in our three previous books, so it seems to be a must-read for those interested in learning more about the interconnections within forests.

Our book club is very flexible, and we meet whenever we have all finished the book. We will aim for late January/early February for *Greenwood*, and *March for Finding the Mother Tree*. If you are interested in discussing these books, please contact us at [trees@brcacalgary.org](mailto:trees@brcacalgary.org).



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**NEIGHBOURHOOD CONFLICT?** Community Mediation Calgary Society (CMCS) is a no-cost mediation and conflict coaching service that can help you resolve problems and restore peace! We help neighbours be neighbours again! [www.communitymediation.ca](http://www.communitymediation.ca), 403-269-2707.

**TLC CLEANING:** Over 20 years' experience in the business! TLC Cleaning is a small and personalized house cleaning company with an eye for detail. Licensed, insured, bonded, and WCB covered for your peace of mind. Excellent rates and references; environmentally-friendly options too. Everyone needs a little TLC! Free estimates; please call Carol at 403-614-8522 or email [tlc\\_cleaning@shaw.ca](mailto:tlc_cleaning@shaw.ca).

## That's a Lot of Snow

Scotland has an impressive linguistic flair for describing snow—with a whopping 421 distinct words and expressions! Among them, you'll find gems like “snaw,” “sneel,” and “skelf,” officially documented as part of the Scottish lexicon for capturing the nuanced beauty of snow in its various forms. It's a linguistic snowscape that paints a vivid picture of Scotland's intimate relationship with the winter wonderland.



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# *Bridgeland & Renfrew* REAL ESTATE

## BY THOMAS KEEPER, REALTOR<sup>®</sup>

### 403-542-8084



\$1,899,900  
954 Drury Avenue  
4 Beds / 5 Baths  
4,057 Total Square Feet



\$1,524,000  
1120 Colgrove Avenue  
4 Beds / 5 Baths  
3,590 Total Square Feet



\$1,399,900  
915 Drury Avenue  
4 Beds / 4 Baths  
2,898 Total Square Feet



\$998,000  
1106 Colgrove Avenue  
5 Beds / 5 Baths  
3,590 Total Square Feet



\$1,524,000  
1205 Renfrew Drive  
4 Beds / 4 Baths  
2,522 Total Square Feet



\$524,900  
56 6 Street NE  
2 Beds / 1 Bath  
1,007 Total Square Feet

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