Bowness Community Association

Represent • Facilitate • Enhance

Bowness 2020 Vital Signs

Jeremy Klager

Message from the Bowness Community Association

Our vision is for Bowness to be a vibrant, engaged, sustainable, community of choice. We embrace our history, diversity and natural beauty and work with residents, businesses, government and community organizations to grow our community to be a safe, vibrant place that feels like home. A place where people know their neighbours, lend a helping hand to each other and say hello when passing on the street. We love our "Village in the Valley" and the small town feel we have created together.

In 2009 the BCA proudly presented, along with The Calgary Foundation and United Way, our first Vital Signs report, Voices of Bowness. This invaluable tool helped us make important decisions on how the BCA could support the residents of Bowness. Now, three years later, we went out into the community again and asked "What do YOU envision for Bowness 2020?" And here it is! This report is your voice in the community; a celebration of all things Bowness, a look at everything that has changed over the last three years and what you envision for 2020. We hope you enjoy the read and look forward to your support in the upcoming years in creating a vision for Bowness 2020 TOGETHER!

Derek Podlubny
President, Bowness Community Association

Message from United Way of Calgary and Area

It has been a privilege for United Way of Calgary and Area to have had the opportunity to work closely with the Bowness Community Association and many energetic and committed community residents in creating this year's report: Bowness 2020. Three years ago we embarked on this project together to raise awareness, encourage dialogue and promote action while celebrating what is unique and special about Bowness. The 2009 Report, Voices of Bowness, sparked discussion on many issues important to the community and was the starting point for many actions in the neighbourhood. It also served as a focal point for the community's sense of purpose and connection, as evidenced in the results of this follow-up report.

United Way believes that neighbourhoods are important to people's quality of life and that lasting neighbourhood change happens when it is led by engaged residents.

Bowness 2020 focuses on the future of Bowness, and what needs to happen to help the community get there. It is about recognizing the strengths of the community while continuing to tackle important issues and concerns. It is about getting everyone involved in achieving the community's vision to be an even stronger, more welcoming and vibrant place. We encourage you to take this report home and think about what you can do to be a part of the change and help bring this vision of Bowness to fruition in your own personal way.

United Way of Calgary and Area

What is Vital Signs, why Vital Signs and what's next?
Through The Calgary Foundation, Vital Signs has been used as a community engagement and development tool that has allowed us to take the pulse of Bowness, connect with residents and help make Bowness an even better neighbourhood. Vital Signs has been used in a similar way by The Calgary Foundation as well as other Community Foundations in major cities across Canada. At a community level, only Bowness has been featured, once in 2009 (Voices of Bowness) and now (Bowness 2020).

Well over 100 hours of speaking with residents has given us an insightful snap shot into the concerns and thoughts of our community. This provides us with a very valuable data of ratings and comments on how the community is doing in 12 different categories. This information will be of great value to those that work in the community, it will provide direction for the BCA and will be used to advocate for the issues identified as important to Bownesians.

In addition to the information collected, the ability to speak with residents and engage them on issues important to them was an important process in itself. We wanted to get people thinking about Bowness and what their vision of the community was – what Bowness could be. Most importantly however, is emphasizing that this vision of the future of Bowness is in our hands. The Bowness Community Association and the Bowness 2020 team want this report to ultimately be a tool for empowering Bownesians and getting everyone involved in shaping our community.

Since the 2009 report we have tracked 42 Vital Actions in response to the ideas presented in the report. To continue to support Vital Actions we invite you to come down to the Community Association with any ideas that you may have. If you are willing to take on a Vital Action we will provide supports such as; mentorship, introduction to community resources, assistance applying for funding, and help recruiting volunteers. Our goal is to have action committees in each of the 12 areas that will help to connect like minded Bownesians to each other based on their passion for change.

Highlights

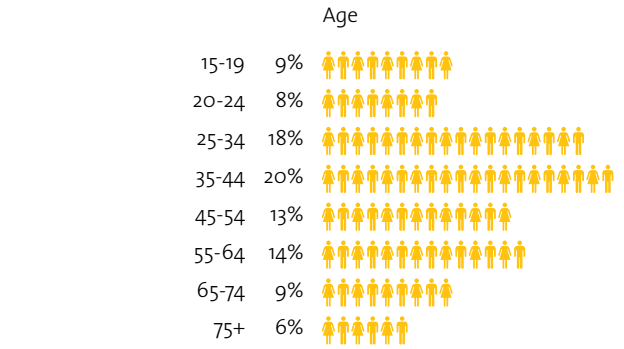
Research & Engagement Methods

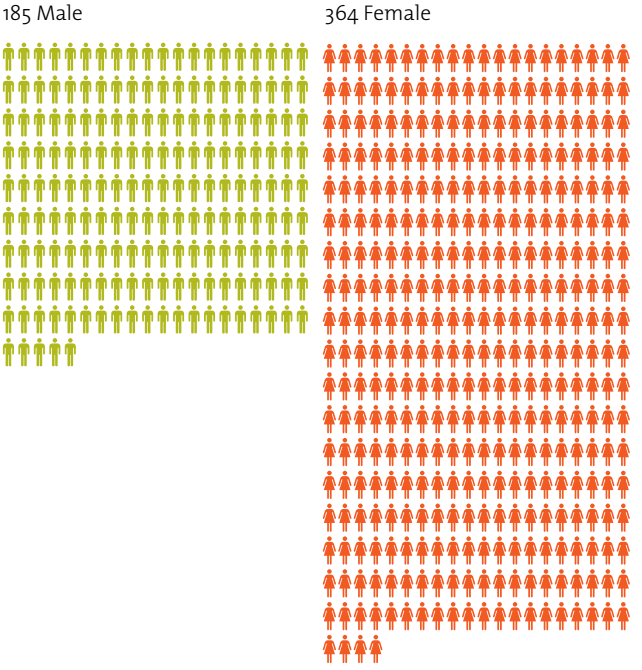
Bowness 2020 utilized the issue areas identified in 2009's Voices of Bowness. Our hope was to measure the improvement and identify areas for action in each of the 12 categories. The categories were initially identified by Bownesians who participated in Vital Conversations in 2009.

In 2009, 354 residents participated in Voices of Bowness. In 2012, 559 Bownesians participated. The data was collected over June and July using a variety of methods.

- A session was held with students from Bowness at Bowness High
- In person surveys were conducted at community events (Bowness Stampede Breakfast, Road Race, Community Clean Up, BRZ Street Festival, Bownesians Picnic, Movie Night)
- Visited the Bowness Conversation Café
- A team of local residents contributed 116 hours to door knocking throughout the community
- An online survey was posted on the BCA website, Facebook page and postcards distributed throughout the community

Participants of the survey were as diverse as Bowness itself. The following information about our participants was collected.

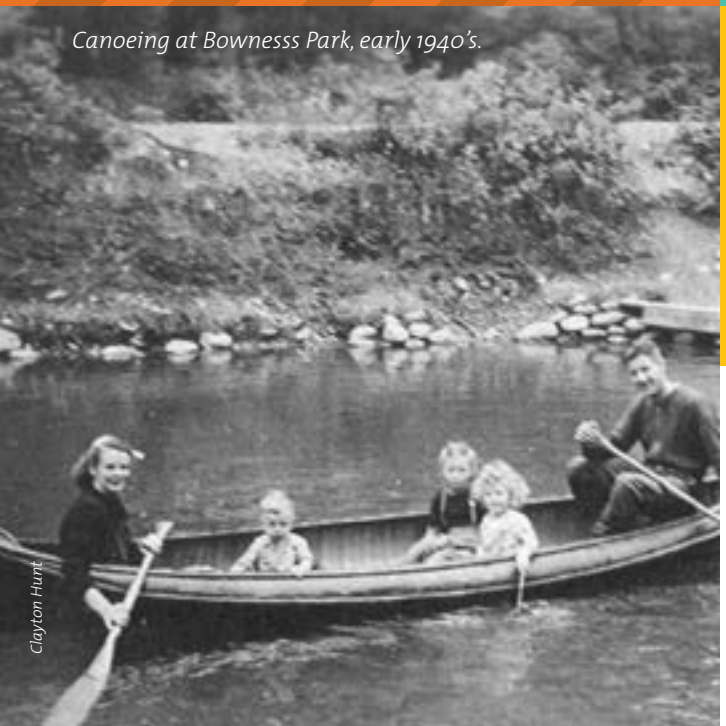




BOWNESIANS LOVE their community. When asked to name another community that they liked or enjoyed most Bownesians responded that they could not picture living anywhere else.

Sense of Community

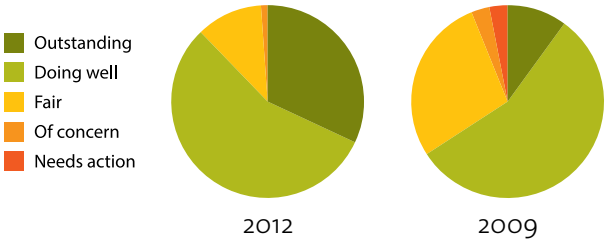
I've seen a real increase in community-led events over the past 15 years here in Bowness. For me, being involved with the Bowness Soccer Club has been a great way to get to know kids and parents in the neighbourhood. I really like how I can walk down the street and have kids whom I've coached years before call out to me, 'Hi Coach!' Doug Waite, The Bownesians



Canoeing at Bownesss Park, early 1940's.

Clayton Hunt

Grading our progress



Small town feel

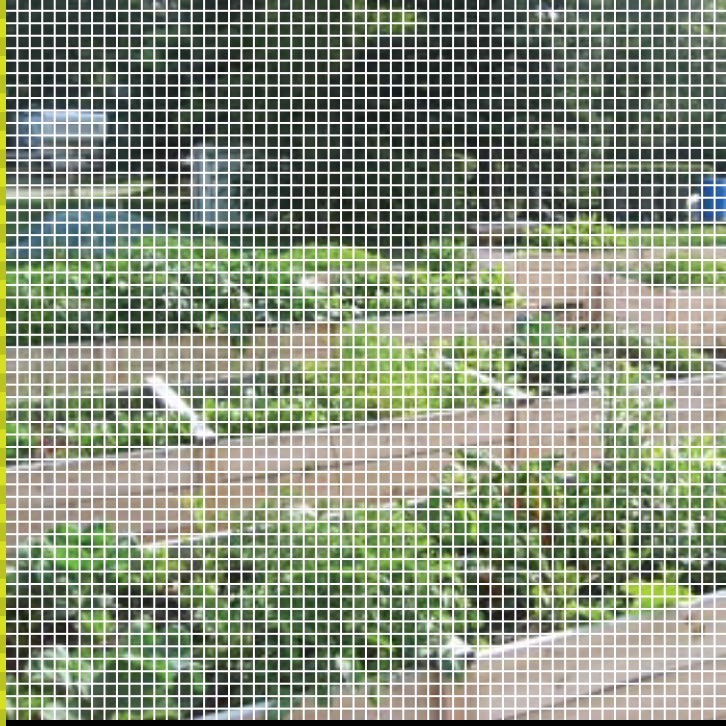
Bowness was described as “the most distinct community in Calgary” with a “small town feel”. Many expressed pride in Bowness’ strong history and a commitment to maintaining the small town feel into 2020.

Celebrating our community

Over the past 3 years the number of events and activities where people can connect with their neighbours has increased significantly! New events like the Valentines Dance, The Bowness Road Race and Stampede Stomp have been growing every year.

Community involvement

Bownesians actively participate in their community by volunteering their time. There are currently 212 volunteers supporting the BCA’s events, action committees and board. The BCA has also introduced the ‘Nessie awards acknowledging the BCA volunteer of the year, the community volunteer of the year and the community volunteer group of the year.



Bowness Railway Community Garden

Bowness 2020
Building our future

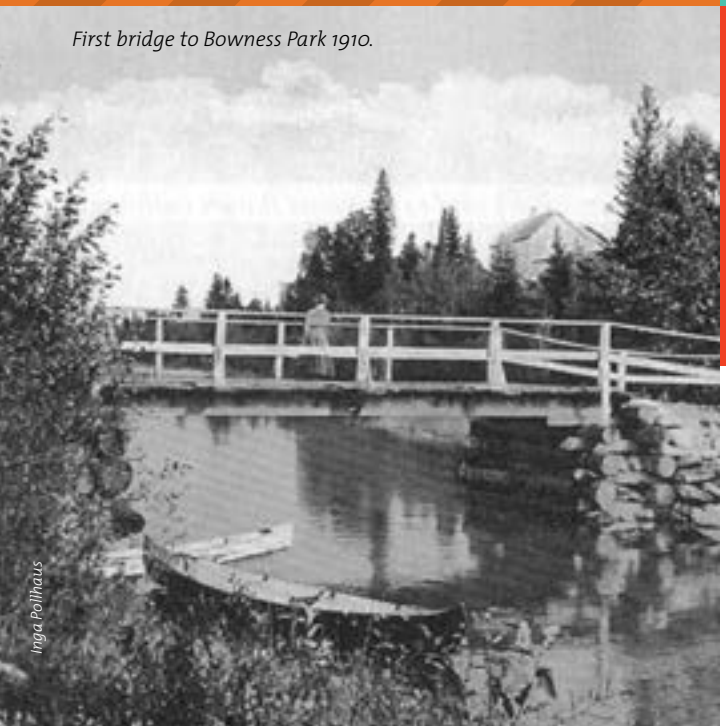
- Do you or your group have a great idea for enriching the sense of community in Bowness? Approach the BCA to find out how we can make your idea happen.
- Need a little financial kick start? Apply for your own $100-$600 Ripples grant through the Bowwest Community Resource Center or the BCA.
- Join the BCA board and help make Bowness the vibrant community you want it to be.

BEING ONE OF the oldest communities in Calgary, Bowness prides itself on the maintenance of its green spaces that date back to before the First World War. Residents have the pleasure of living on streets that are decorated by the canopies of poplar and spruce trees and most are no more than a short walk to a variety of parks and fields where families go to play and relax.

Natural Environment

When I first moved into Bowness, I was astonished by how many running and cycling options there are for Bownesians. Within minutes, most of us can 'lose the city' and fall in step with the natural rhythms of the river as we run along the bow, walk among the old Douglas Firs or cycle towards mountain views. It would be fair to say that from a health perspective, I'm running for my life and I cannot tell you just how grateful I am to have my finish line here in Bowness.

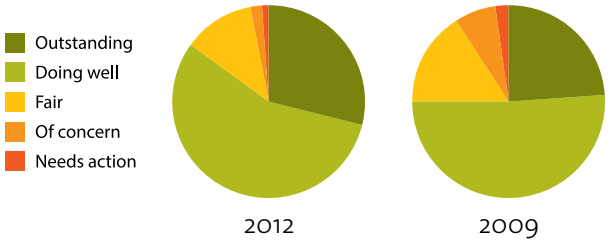
Jeff Dyer, Bowness Road Runners, Run Bowness Director



First bridge to Bowness Park 1910.

Inga Pollhaus

Grading our progress



Bowness Park

Bownesians have enjoyed Bowness Park since 1911. It is currently receiving an update that will include a brand new tea house overlooking the lagoon, more native plants added to the area as well as alterations made to lessen the environmental impact on the park so that we may continue to enjoy it for another 100 years.

Trees help us grow more trees

Many expressed a need for more trees and greenery along streets and within the green spaces. They expressed disapproval of the recent removal of aging trees. These trees provide great benefits to the overall health of a community.

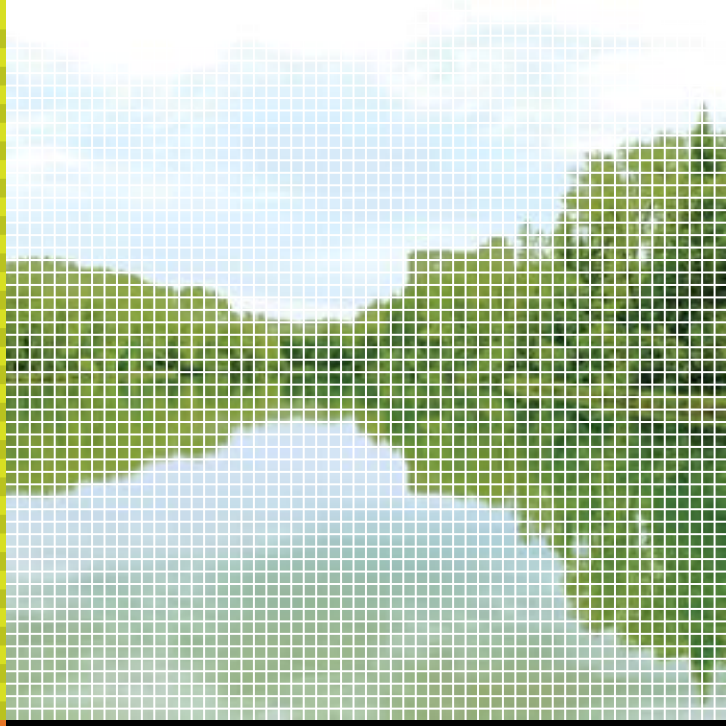


Photo: John Vickers

Did you know?

- Almost 100 aging trees will be removed during the parks redevelopment, but for every one tree removed, two will be planted.
- Trees provide benefits such as higher air quality, sound absorption, green house gas absorption and encouragement of biodiversity.
- Bowness Park once featured a very popular merry-go-round, carousal, swimming pool and dance hall. The merry-go-round can still be seen at Calgary's Heritage Park.

City of Calgary Parks Profile

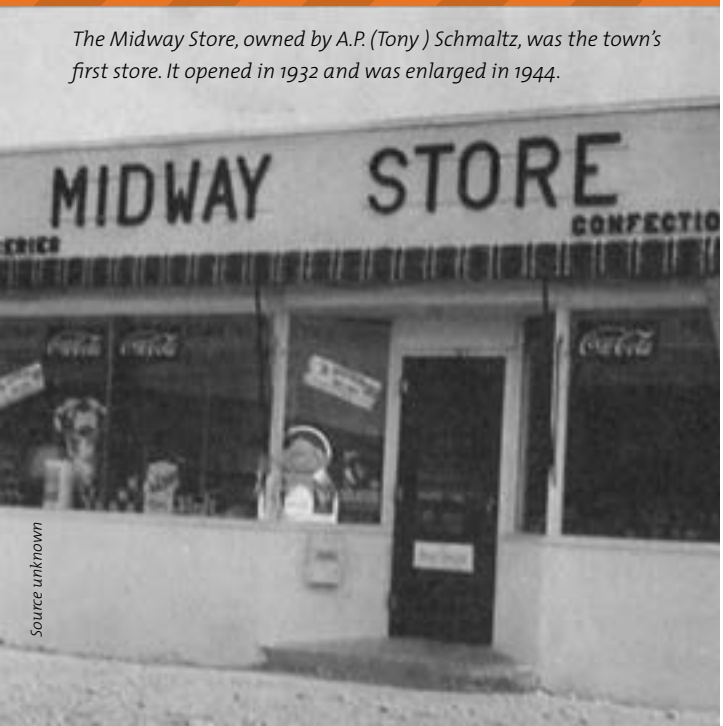
Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Join the Planning and Development Committee to have a voice in preserving and encouraging more green spaces.
- Bowness has yet to have its own independent environmental stewardship committee, contact the Bowness Community Association and start one.

BOWNESS IS HOME to 183 registered businesses, the majority of which are found along Main Street and the community square. Most of these businesses are within walking distance and provide necessities such as food, auto service, pharmaceuticals, appliances, and leisure activities for residents.

Local Economy

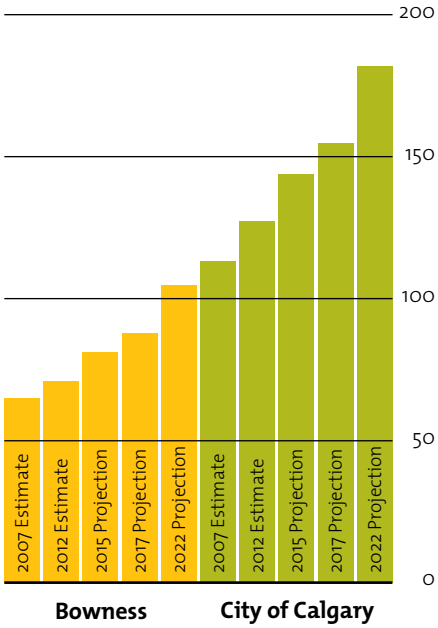
The Midway Store, owned by A.P. (Tony) Schmaltz, was the town's first store. It opened in 1932 and was enlarged in 1944.



Source unknown

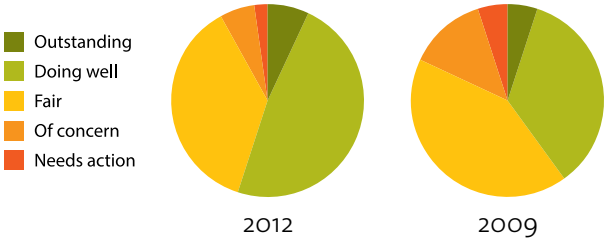
We've got to increase the vibrancy of downtown Bowness, making it a destination for shoppers as well as ensuring that Bownesians can have access to the things they need...more coffee shops and restaurants. Resident

Average household income ($000's)



Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

Grading our progress



Diversity in businesses

Since 2009, Bowness has welcomed a number of new businesses to the community, but many residents feel there is a need to diversify and revitalize Main Street and the Bow Centre Mall.

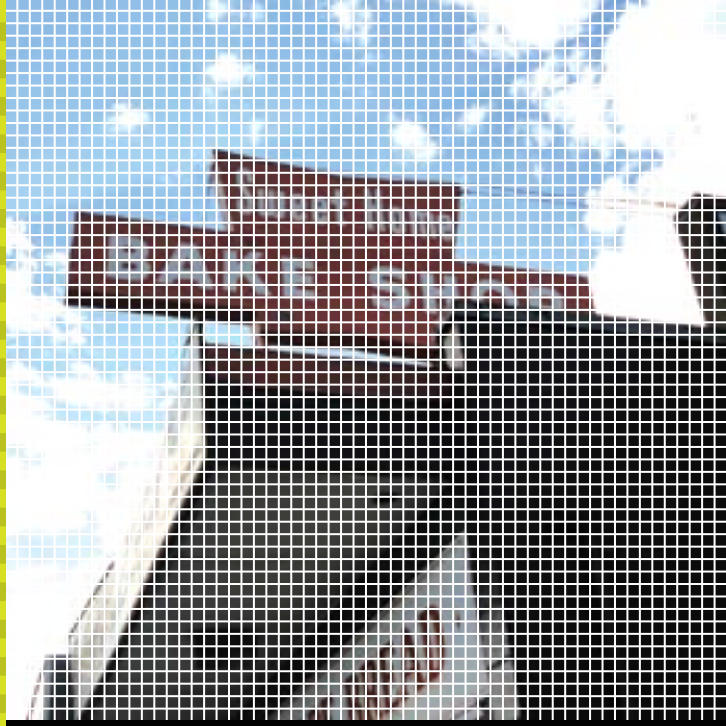
A main street promenade

Kensington, Marda Loop and Inglewood were the top answers for neighbourhoods residents enjoy other than Bowness. The attractions of these areas included: restaurants, bistro's, café's, outdoor patios and shops that would encourage pedestrians to stroll along Main Street to do some shopping. Bownesians would love to see a similar promenade in Bowness.

Individual economic well being

Resident's spoke of the need for local employment opportunities as well as an increase to minimum wage.

Photo: Jeremy Klager



Bowness 2020
Building our future

Did you know?

- The labour force participation rate in Bowness is 70.63% with occupations in trades, transport, operators and sales being the most common types of employment
- Average household incomes is $70,958 which is 44.2% below the City of Calgary average. This is projected to grow to $104,876 by 2022 compared to the City which is projected to be $181,788.

Data projection from Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

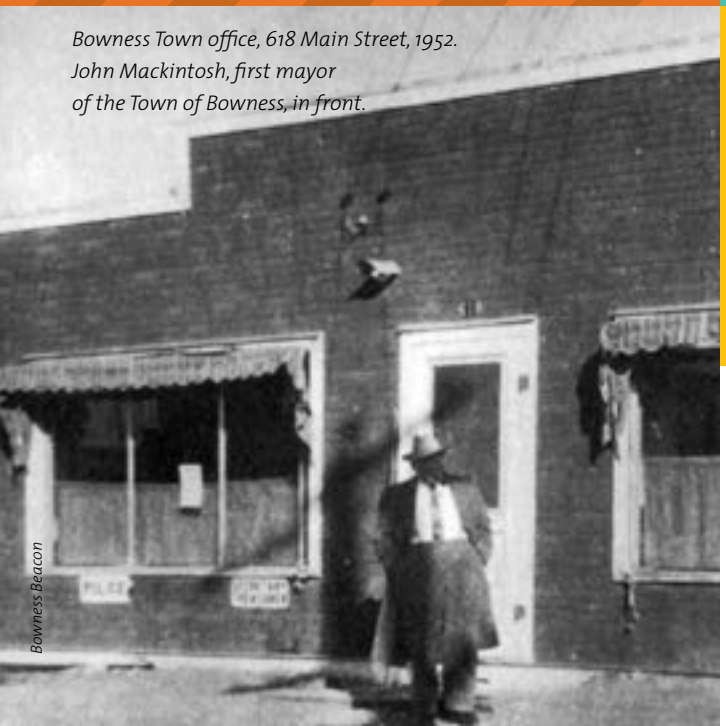
- Take the lead on a "Buy Bowness" campaign encouraging people to buy locally and support Bownesian business owners.
- Come out and enjoy our bi-annual craft fairs and the many other events showcasing local business such as the Business Revitalization Zone Street Festival on the August long weekend
- Encourage business owners to hire locally and provide opportunities for youth and people with little job experience.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT of Bowness includes its roads, buildings, infrastructure, signs and houses. This, together with the natural environment, creates the space where we live, work and learn. The quality of our built environment is important for residents because it influences how we feel about our community.

Built Environment

When people come into the community, they encounter a different type of environment. People experience a village feel, green environment, people are attracted to the area created by what this community is as a result of its history... you can sense something different, this sense is worth keeping and defending.

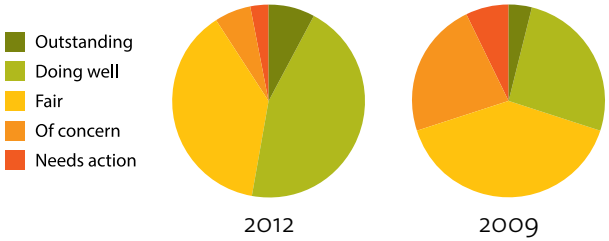
Joe Leicerowicz, BCA Board of Directors
and Chair of Planning and Development Committee



Bowness Town office, 618 Main Street, 1952. John Mackintosh, first mayor of the Town of Bowness, in front.

Bowness Beacon

Grading our progress



Up keep and revitalization

Many of the buildings in Bowness are in original condition. Residents identified the need for maintenance and repair to keep these buildings looking attractive and current. The need for maintenance for roads and playgrounds and local storefronts was identified as a priority.

A gathering place

Community exists when people know and care about each other and for this to happen we need public spaces where people can come together. Bowness currently has the Boys & Girls Club, the Bowness Seniors Centre, Irish Cultural Centre, many churches and schools, the Community Hall and Arena as well as the Scout's Hall. All of these spaces can be accessed to host a community event of your own.

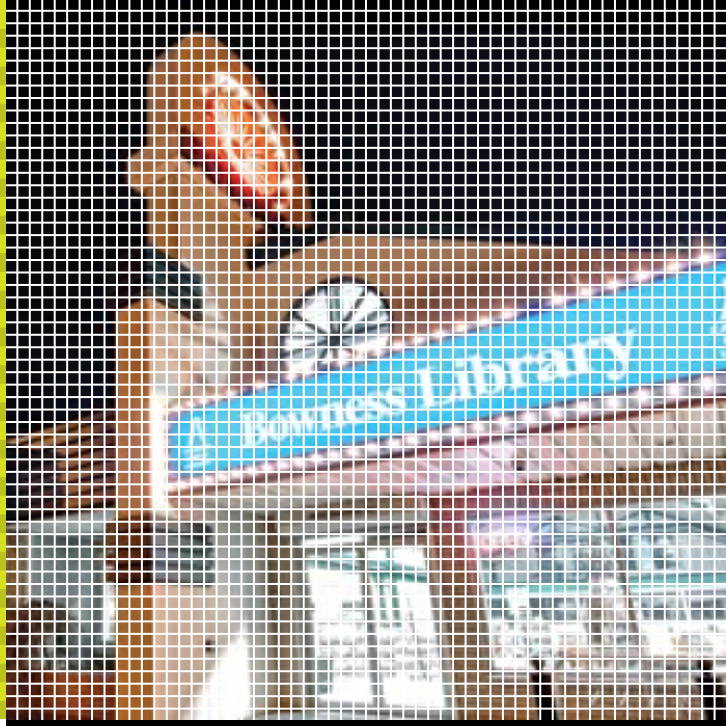


Photo: Jeremy Klager

Total population (000's)

Bowness

- **11.1** 2007 Estimate
- **11.4** 2012 Estimate
- **12.0** 2015 Projection
- **12.5** 2017 Projection
- **12.8** 2022 Projection

City of Calgary

- **1,054** 2007 Estimate
- **1,165** 2012 Estimate
- **1,227** 2015 Projection
- **1,270** 2017 Projection
- **1,378** 2022 Projection

Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Join our Planning and Development Committee to stay abreast of development and housing issues, current events and creating a vision for what Bowness could be.
- Do you have concerns about our buildings or infrastructure? Call the City of Calgary and the BCA Planning and Development Committee to voice these concerns. Without this communication it is difficult for improvements to be become a priority.

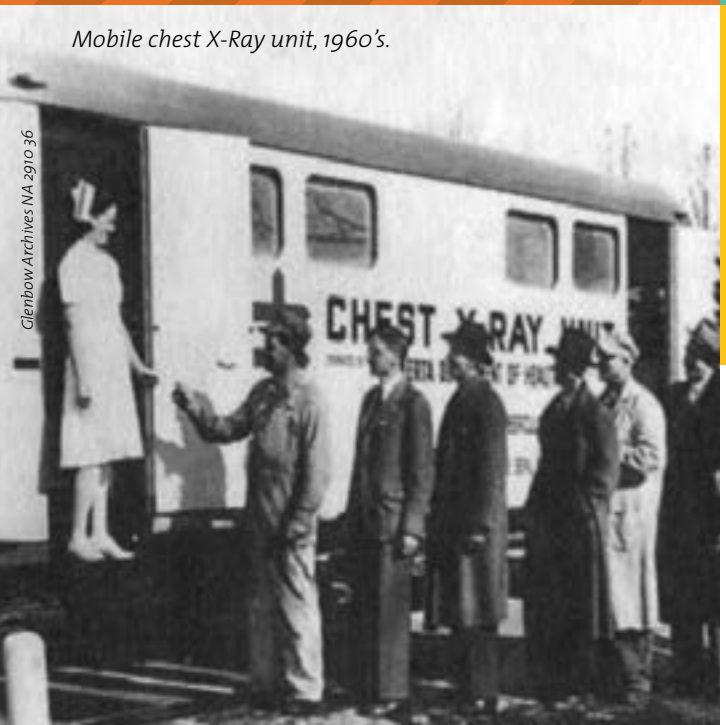
A PERSON'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS is made up of their physical health as well as their mental and emotional health. This is achieved when people have access to healthy food, doctors' offices, parks and recreation areas as part of a whole environment where they can pursue a healthy lifestyle.

Health and Wellness

I volunteer my time in the Bowness community by guiding two weekly Yoga classes, one for seniors at the Library and one at Boys and Girls Club. I believe Yoga can change a person's life: Physically, Mentally and Spiritually. When I practice I feel complete, if I can share this gift of Yoga with even one person I feel honored.

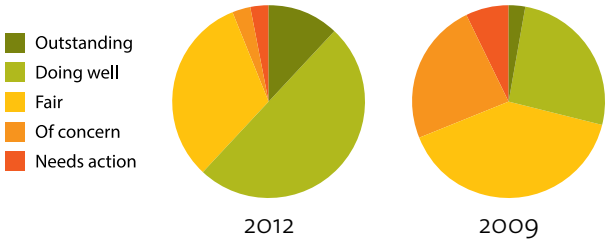
Leanne Shannon, Yoga Instructor

Mobile chest X-Ray unit, 1960's.



Glenbow Archives NA 2910 36

Grading our progress



More clinics

When asked about health, the number one need identified was for more professional heath practices such as dentist and doctors' offices.

Outside the doctor's office

To remain fit and in shape outside of the doctor's office, Bownesian's can enjoy yoga, karate, running, fitness classes, cycling and hiking.

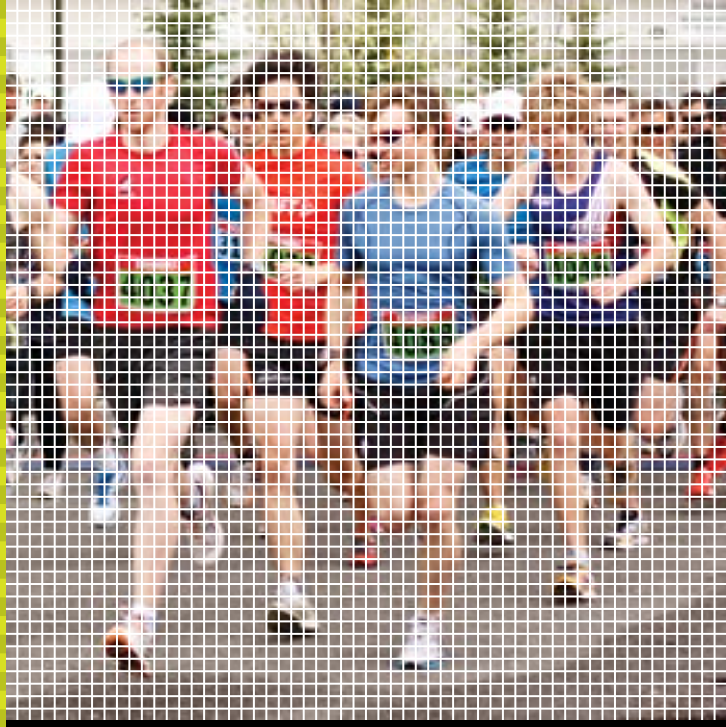
Utilizing green space

Bownesian's are hoping to see more outdoor fitness programs held during the summer so they can work on their fitness while also taking advantage of the beautiful green spaces. Some ideas were outdoor bootcamps, an outdoor pool and fitness area.

Accessibility

The percentage of persons with a disability in Bowness is higher than that of the city overall making accessibility a priority for Bownesians.

Photo: Jeremy Klager



Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Learn more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle through the health and wellness workshops offered by The Light Cellar.
- Join one of the many collective kitchens offered by the Bowwest Community Resource Centre.
- If you have an idea to help provide more mental, emotional or physical health opportunities in Bowness, contact the BCA so we can help you make that idea grow.

CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS all have access to different forms of sports and recreation year round in Bowness. Sports and recreation give us ways to remain healthy, spend time with friends and family, meet new people as well as experience our community in a refreshing way.

Sports & Recreation

Mental and emotional health is just as important as our physical health. Get out and get involved in the community! There are countless opportunities for you to participate. Check out the Valentines Dance, the Bownesian's picnic, the arts, play bridge or join a book club! Getting out to meet neighbours and having fun is a sure way to achieving this. Get a community membership card so you can keep in the loop of what is happening in Bowness.

Epiphany Dober, Community Volunteer

Tuininga Royals Team

Ruth Tuininga

Our facilities

Residents can enjoy team or solo activities throughout Bowness Park, public green spaces, outdoor tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds and football fields. The community Arena is also host to athletic teams and public indoor skating during the winter.

Activities for children and youth

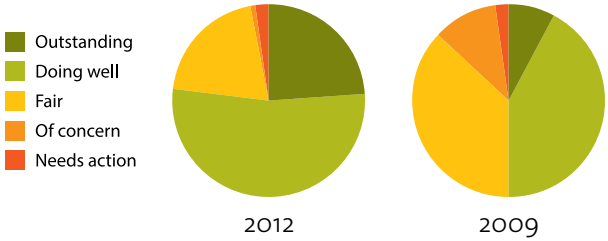
Residents expressed a need for better maintenance of playgrounds as well as more activities for children and youth particularly during the summer. A consistent request from youth has been for a skate park.

Photo: Jeremy Klager

Did you know?

- Youthboost a program founded by a local mother and son to remove barriers to recreation for youth has grown from 12 local youth in 2011 to 53 in 2012.
- The annual Run Bowness 10 km run has grown to over 200 participants in just two years.

Grading our progress



Bowness 2020
Building our future

- As a resident of Bowness, you are only minutes away from the possibility of being part of a variety of teams and activities: Undercurrents, Bow River Bruins, Bowness Soccer, Youth Boost, Tao of Peace, Yoga in Bowness and the Brazilian Ju-Jitsu fight club.
- Youth have consistently requested a skate park and are in need to adults to help lead this project, contact the Bowness Community Association to help facilitate this project.

ONLY WHEN an individual's community is safe, can personal, social and economic aspects of one's life thrive.

To better understand safety in Bowness we have made a comparison to the City as well as Sunnyside/Hillhurst. While the City gives us a broad picture of safety, Sunnyside/Hillhurst gives us a comparison to a similarly sized desirable neighbourhood.

Safety

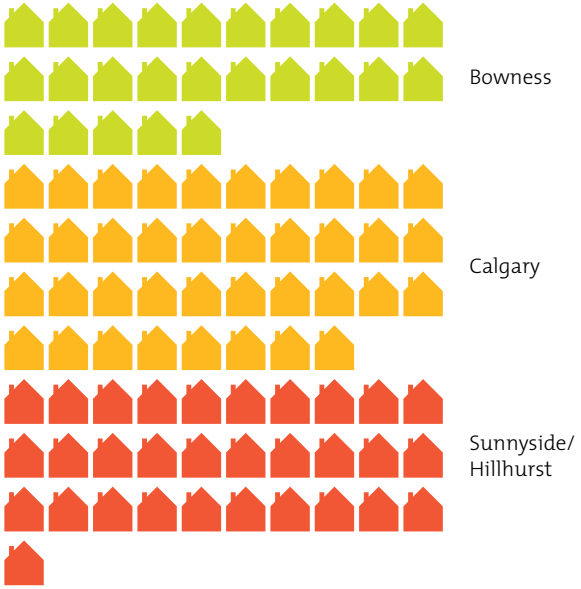
Bowness Volunteer Fire Department, 1960s.

Val (O'Toole) Fazio

I think there is a real concern about safety as a pedestrian in Bowness. Considering how busy the roads are, how many people walk, take transit and all the kids...better lighting and larger cross walks that light up would make a big difference Resident

Person crimes
(per 1,000 persons, 2011)

Property crimes
(per 1,000 persons, 2011)



Calgary Police Service, Crime Statistics (2011)

Crime

Bowness, overall, is a safe community with a few areas where higher than average rates of person and property crime occur. These areas are typically near commercial/ retail strips, as well as in areas with low-rise high-density buildings. Bowness has a below city average property crime rate and is comparable to several inner city communities, such as Sunnyside/Hillhurst. Bowness has a 81% higher person crime rate than the city average, and 28% higher person crime rate than the comparably sized Sunnyside/Hillhurst.

Calgary Police Service, Crime Statistics (2011)

Night time safety

The most frequent safety concern reported was safety at night. A large number of respondents said that they were very uncomfortable with the thought of walking alone at night. Many suggested improvements to street lighting.

Street smart

The second most noted concern was with the lack of pedestrian crosswalks in the neighbourhood. Bowness has very active roadways but not enough clearly marked cross walks with flashing lights to alert drivers. Residents felt that with the amount of speeding cars, speed bumps in busy residential streets were a necessity.

Grading our progress

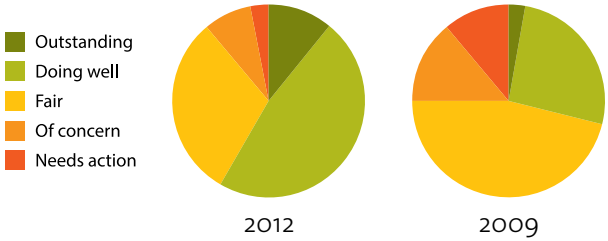


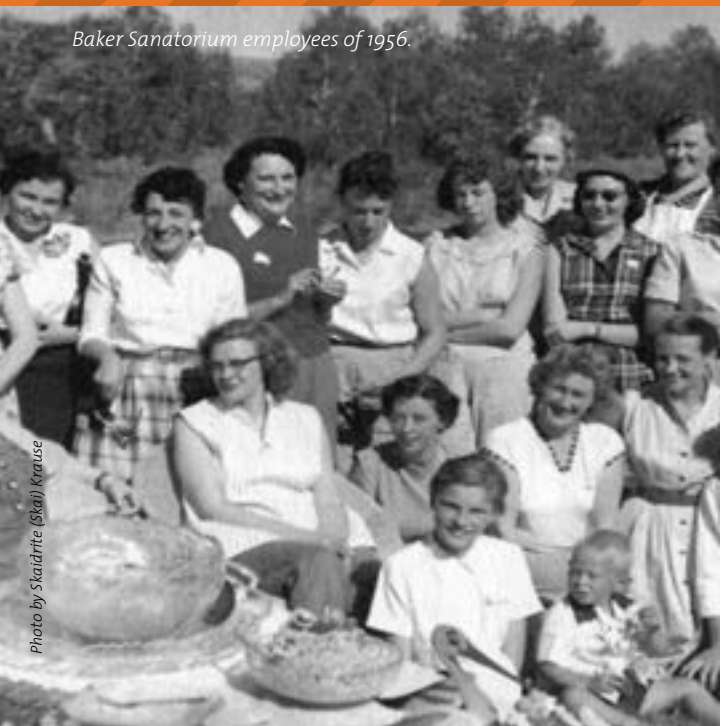
Photo: Jeremy Klager

Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Join the Bowness Safety Committee to voice your concerns, help find solutions and stay informed on issues within the community.
- Requests for more adequate crosswalks and the use of speed bumps can be made by contacting the City of Calgary.
- If you, along with a group of neighbors feel strongly on this issue, form a committee to campaign your concern to the city. Contact the Bowness Community Association to find out how we can help.

BOWNESS CONTINUES to be a very diverse community with residents from different age, socio-economic and cultural groups. This tapestry of traditions and identities within the community contribute to the distinctiveness of Bowness.

Diversity



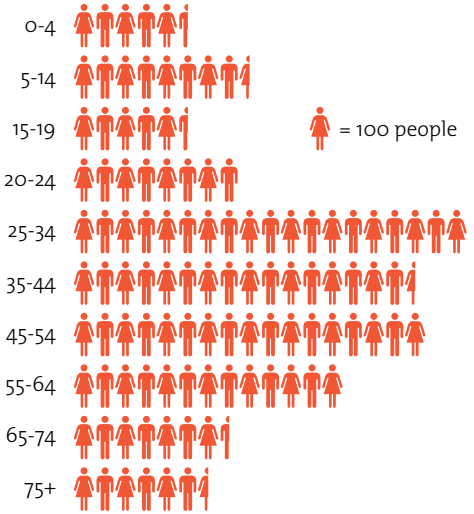
Baker Sanatorium employees of 1956.

Photo by Skaidrite (Skai) Krause

Our vision is that "children, youth and families thrive within a culturally responsive community*." Miskanawah *(meaning 'Pathways' in Cree) is rooted in Aboriginal teachings, ceremonies and guidance from Elders and is embedded in our practices.

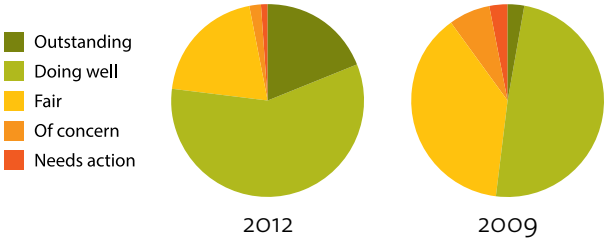
Stefanie Wong, Pathways Community Services Association

Age distribution



Data projection from Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

Grading our progress



On the right track

Residents feel that there is a "good mix" of people and that the atmosphere of the community is quite inclusive. Many felt that cultural diversity in particular has been improving over the past few years.

Supports for cultural diversity

Some respondents would like to see more cultural events to represent different groups as well as Aboriginal events in recognition of our higher than average Aboriginal population. Other suggestions included: community supports for culture and a community welcome wagon for newcomers.

Photo: Pathways Community Services Association

Did you know?

- The top languages spoken in Bowness other than French and English include: German, Dutch, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog and Korean.
- The habitation of First Nations peoples in the area now known as Bowness can be traced back to the last ice age (approx 10,500 years ago).*
- Bowness was the home to many First Nations groups of the past, including the Peigan, Kainaiwa (Blood), Siksika, Piikani, Atsina (Gros Ventre), Nakota, Cree and Tsuu T'ina.*

* In the Beginning, Bowness: Our Village in the Valley by Brian Reeves

Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Learn more about our local cultural resources and events in Bowness through the Irish Cultural Center, Dutch Canadian Club, Jewish Family Services or Immigrant Services Calgary.
- Want to celebrate your own culture and share it with Bowness? Contact the Bowness Community Association to start your own event, group or project.
- Start a Bowness Welcome Wagon. Contact the Bowness Community Association to find out how we can help.

BOWNESS HAS A VARIETY of housing that ranges from subsidized city duplexes to million dollar luxury homes and once again this reflects the economic diversity within our community. However, Bowness is primarily a low density residential community with a limited amount of medium density zoning.

Housing

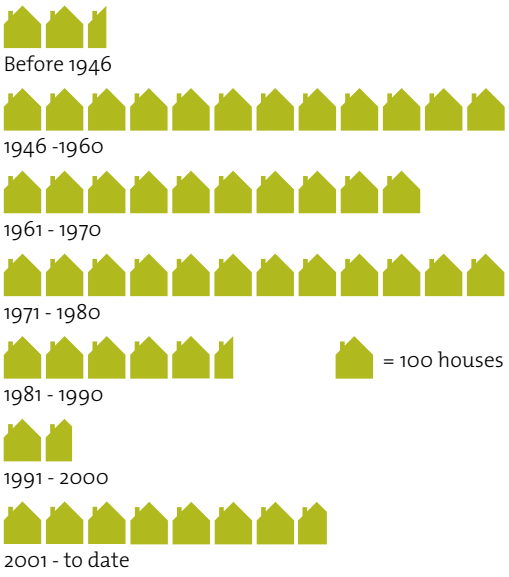
Bowness has higher than City average for low income and social needs housing. A better balance is needed if we want to be a sustainable community. We need more transitional housing for seniors and ways to encourage 'aging in place'. I would support higher density in some areas of Bowness (close to Bowness Road) only if it was based on the principle that higher density is more people on a smaller footprint, not bigger houses on smaller lots.

Niki Smyth, Planning and Development Committee Member and Resident

VLA Soldier's Settlement home on Chinook Avenue, 1950.

Pargee Family

Houses by year of construction



Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

Lack of home maintenance

Many homes in Bowness are neglected and poorly maintained. Due to the age of most homes, they often require a high level of maintenance and upgrades. Their condition impacts the street, community, and value of all homes in Bowness.

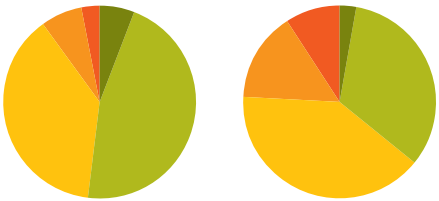
More housing options

There is a need for a greater diversity of housing mixed throughout the community. Residents used the terms affordable housing and low income housing interchangeably. Some felt that current offerings were adequate while others felt that there was a need for more options. What affordable or low income housing meant was not clear, "Low income" may imply subsidized housing provided by the City and "affordable" housing may refer to both rental properties and home ownership at prices that are attainable in the context of rising cost of living throughout Calgary.

Photo: Jeremy Klager

Grading our progress

- Outstanding
- Doing well
- Fair
- Of concern
- Needs action



Bowness 2020
Building our future

- To address absentee landlords and neglected properties, the Planning and Development committee highly recommends that residents contact City Bylaw at 311 to make a complaint so that the City can address the property.
- Join our Planning and Development Committee to stay abreast of development and housing issues, current events and creating a vision for what Bowness could be.

Transportation

RESIDENTS HAVE THE OPTION of driving, cycling, walking or public transportation when travelling. Having this variety of options is crucial for residents to have quick and convenient access to work, home, school and leisure.

Bike lanes on Bowness Road would be great. As well as having a direct bus route up Nose Hill to Crowfoot from Bowness.

Resident

Did you know?

Bowness' first public bus was the local street car that ran between Bowness and Calgary between 1913 and 1950.

The Bowness Street Car by Urie Valentine

Streetcar at Bowness Park "turning circle" with conductor and motorman, 1912.

Calgary Transit, City of Calgary

Public transport

Major bus routes servicing Bowness include the number 1, 40, 407, 408 and the 305 BRT (bus rapid transit). Residents expressed that although the service was good they would like to see changes such as increased frequency for the 407 & 408 as well as continuous summer service for the 305. Improved night time service was also suggested. Easier routes to nearby areas such as Signal Hill and Crowfoot would also open up many options for employment for residents.

Increase in traffic

Bowness is accessible by four major roadways: Bowfort Road, Bowness Road, 85 Street and Sarcee Trail. In 2007, an average of 15,000 vehicles used Bowness Road on a typical workday. This number has increased to 17,000.

City of Calgary Transportation Volume Maps

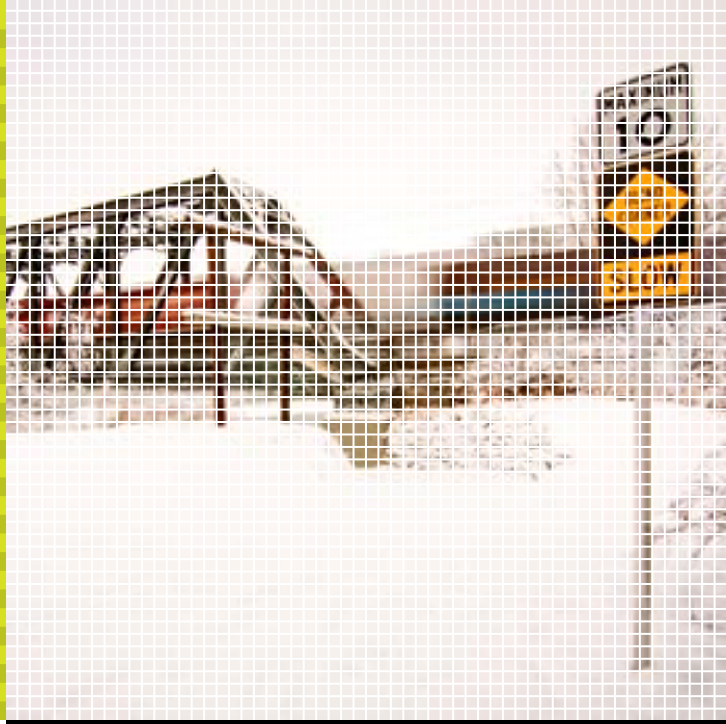
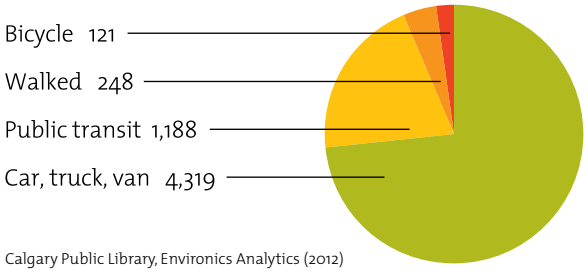


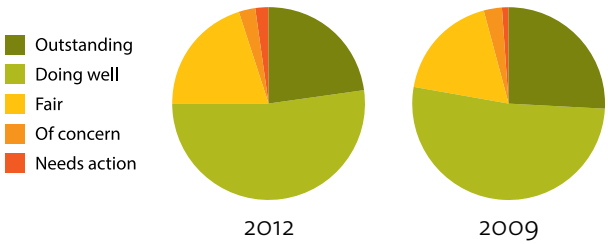
Photo: Jeremy Klager

Modes of transportation



Calgary Public Library, Environics Analytics (2012)

Grading our progress

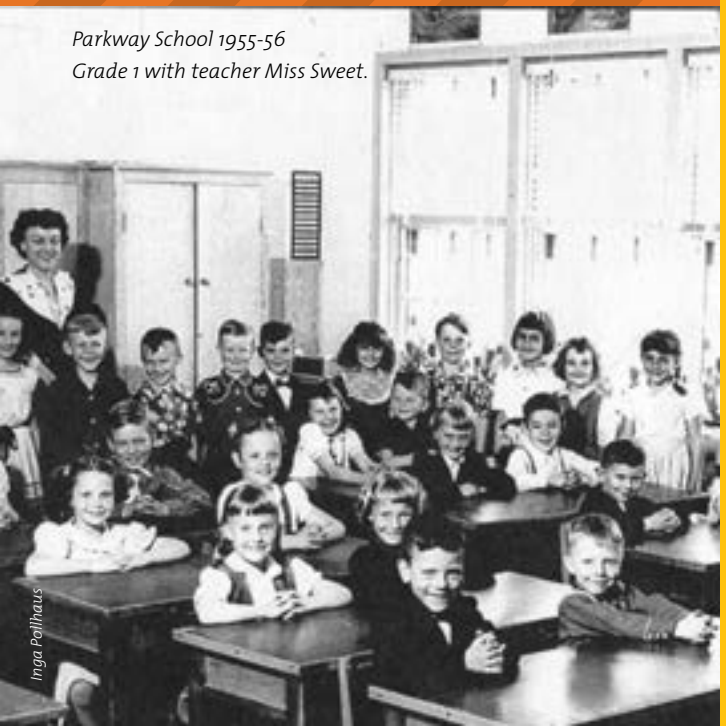


Bowness 2020
Building our future

- Lead a transportation committee in cooperation with the Bowness Community Association Planning and Development Committee to communicate the needs of Bownesians to Calgary transit and advocate for changes in service.
- Drive carefully and walk with awareness to ensure that everyone gets where they are going safely.

BOWNESS IS HOME to elementary, junior high and high schools enabling children from the community to complete all of their schooling close to home. There are also two specialized learning schools and two high school completion programs.

Education and Learning



Parkway School 1955-56
Grade 1 with teacher Miss Sweet.

Inga Pallhaus

There is a great connection in the start that kids have in school and whether or not they complete high school. In order to create a community where everyone is doing well, all children need to have a great start in preschool and kindergarten.

Iris Spurrell, Ready4Learning

Did you know?

Since 2009 Bowness High has seen:

- The 2010 drop out rate was 2.9% which is lower than the provincial average of 4.2%.
- The transition to post secondary had decreased significantly however it remains at par with the provincial rate with Bowness High at 59.8% and the Province at 59.3%.
- An increase in high school completion from a low of 69.1%in 2009 to a high of 75.5% in 2010. The provincial average in 2010 was 72.6%.

Bowness High Accountability Report (2011)

Early Childhood Development

Although the majority of children in Bowness and Montgomery are developing appropriately, a large percentage are experiencing difficulty or great difficulty, particularly in communication skills and knowledge (43.2%) as well as language and thinking skills (36.5%). For more details on what these numbers mean visit **ready4learning.org.**

Love for Bowness High

Despite the fact that one in four Bownesians do not have their high school equivalent, a very large number of residents surveyed expressed how much they love Bowness High School.

More adult learning opportunities

Residents feel that there are a lack of learning and skill building opportunities for adults and seniors available in the community, particularly for those limited by income or transportation.

Early Childhood Mapping Project

Bowness is home to one of the 10 Early Childhood Mapping projects in Calgary funded by the province. This coalition brings together parents, childcare workers, school teachers, librarians and adults who care about children to work together to ensure that every child is ready for learning.

Never too late

Bowness is home to the only community based free General Equivalency Diploma program. Since 2005, 179 students ranging in age from 20 - 69 have participated in the program, which is an important step to accessing further education, employment opportunities and increased self-confidence.

Grading our progress

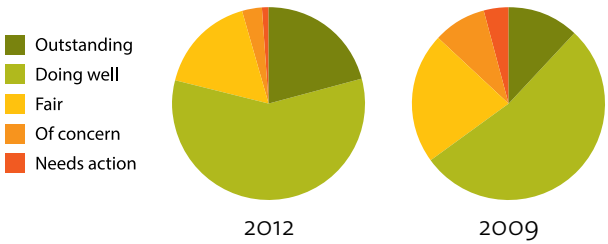


Photo: iStockphoto

Bowness 2020
Building our future

- For information on Never Too Late, contact Catholic Family Services.
- Join the Ready 4 Learning coalition on early literacy.
- Contact the Bowness Community Association with recommendations for types of workshops, educational opportunities and information sessions that you would like to see or for help coordinating a learning opportunity.

ART IS A REFLECTION and expression of the places, spaces and people that piece together who we were, are and wish to be. Art allows us to see our surroundings through a new lens and when shared, we recognize and can celebrate these visions together. Art creates spaces that connect us to our community and most importantly to one another.

Arts & Culture

In cities around the world the arts are always a catalyst that vitalize communities and I think in comparison to other areas in Calgary, Bowness is right on track.

Theresa Grasby

Bowness Band - Mr. Bert Mundy.

Braun Collection

Where we are now

Although there are some acknowledged improvements such as the addition of two more public murals last year, most of the comments received from residents on arts and culture indicate that Bownesians are not seeing as much art as expected represented in a community with such rich history and culture.

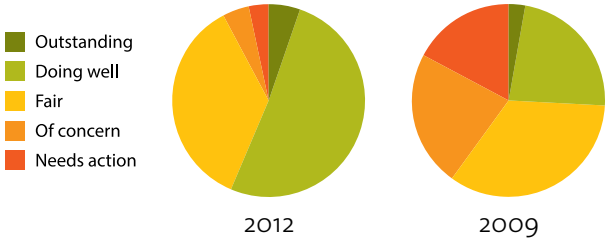
Art for the public

Some of the requests to improve arts and culture were arts and crafts lessons, public art works, more venues for music and performances as well as an art store.

Did you know?

Since the 2009 Vital Signs Report there have been many new pieces of community art including the mural on the side of the Boys and Girls Club, the Art in the Railway Community Garden, the Business Revitalization Zone's mural on the side of the Bowness Hotel and two bright murals painted by local students and youth.

Grading our progress



Bowness 2020
Building our future

- For cultural events contact Irish Cultural Center, Pathways Community Services, The Dutch Canadian Club, Jewish Family Services, the Bowness Seniors Centre or Immigrant Services Calgary to find out what celebrations or performances are being held.
- To experience the arts more, visit or contact: Grasby Art Studio, BowTown Music, BowMont Art Group or The Fire Escape. For music performances contact Hexters, The Bowness Pub or the Bowness community hall to find out what new musical talents are visiting Bowness.

How far we've come!

SINCE 'VITAL SIGNS: VOICES OF BOWNESS' IN 2009, Bowness has seen tremendous growth. Through the help of the Bowness Community Association (BCA), United Way, local businesses, community agencies and most importantly dedicated residents, we have seen over 40 Vital Actions.

The BCA has been working hard over the last three years to address the needs and wants the community expressed in the 2009 Vital Signs Report. It is important to the BCA that there are opportunities for residents to not only have their voices heard, but also to come together and celebrate life in Bowness.

The 42 Vital Actions since 2009's Vital Signs report have been led in part by the community association and also by individuals who have shared their passion with the community by leading initiatives and activities that engage others and help to make Bowness a stronger more vibrant community.

42 Vital Actions

BOWNESS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER BOWNESS FARMERS MARKET GATHERING FOR COMMUNITY SUPPERS 2011 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS COMMUNITY GARDEN UPGRADES TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE RUN BOWNESS NEVER TOO LATE GED PROGRAM AN EVENING GATHERING PLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE HARVEST FAIR PUBLIC ART ART CLASSES BOWEST'NER FACEBOOK.COM/MYBOWNESS MYBOWNESS.COM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BOWNESS COMMUNITY CLEAN UP BOWNESIANS' PICNIC BLACK AND WHITE VALENTINE'S DANCE SPRING CRAFT BIZARRE SPRING INTO ACTION RIPPLES SMALL GRANTS INITIATIVE STAMPEDE STOMP BOWNESS ICEBREAKER JANE'S WALK BOWNESS COMMUNITY ACTION AT GAS PLUS BOWNESS CENTENNIAL HEALTH EXPO BOWNESS FLAG DESIGN CANADA DAY FAMILY KITE FLYING EVENT OPEN HOUSES BRZ STREET FESTIVAL YOUTH BOOST WE LOVE BOWNESS ART RAILWAY COMMUNITY GARDEN MURALS BOWMONT YOUTH EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT MAPPING THE 'NESSIE VOLUNTEER AWARDS LIFE CYCLE COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP MCINTOSH PARK FAMILY SKATE IN BOWNESS PARK MOVIE IN THE PARK

Creating our future
Bowness 2020

When reflecting back on the last three years it is inspiring what has been accomplished. When we think about what Bowness could look like in 2020, our vision is a vibrant, engaged, sustainable, community of choice. We will act with integrity, inclusivity, creativity and most importantly have fun as we volunteer to do our part in creating our own future. We commit to serve Bownesians, building a stronger community for all by respecting our history, diversity and natural beauty. We will provide a gathering place and hub of information and create collaborations and connections through recreational, educational, social and cultural opportunities for all stakeholders.

Our Vital Actions for the coming years include:

- Create a Safety Committee that will address safety in our community and have a positive impact on the perception of Bowness to outsiders.
- Develop a new Webpage, Social Media, and communications methods that will cater to the community at large.
- Host Events for Bownesians to attend, meet and enjoy
- Provide a gathering space for the community, recreation facilities, and office space for use by community members.
- Create a Development and Planning strategy and plan that is respected by the City of Calgary and other stakeholders that includes being age friendly, maintaining our green space, creating play space for children, and providing housing, businesses and services that support our community.
- Support residents in bringing their voices and passions to life within Bowness.

WE SEE A FUTURE created by residents, businesses, agencies, and government working together. Community organizations such as Bow West Resource Center, the Bowness Business Revitalization Zone Committee, the Boys and Girls Club, Pathways Community Services Association, United Way and many others not only contribute to the vitality of Bowness independently, but are here to support the community as we move towards a future together.

The changes in Bowness in the past three years, as indicated in this report, have been remarkable. This snapshot gives an idea of what is possible in a community when people come together to create their vision for what can be. This momentum is just beginning, every day more committees are formed, more residents speak up and great ideas bud into amazing plans. The Bowness Community Association urges you to come be part of these changes with us, because it's you that decides what's next.

What do you see in our future?

CONVERSATION CAFÉ
WELCOME WAGON
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
YOUTH SPACE
SKATE PARK
GATHERING PLACE
BLOCK PARTIES
COMMUNITY KITCHENS
MOVIES IN THE PARK
PERFORMING ARTS
MUSIC STUDIOS
ART EXHIBITS
CULTURAL FAIRS
NIGHT OUTDOOR MARKET
GYM

Acknowledgements

Bowness 2020 Committee
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Bowness Community Association, Board of Directors
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Bowness Community Association
Community Partners
Bowness Historical Society
Bowness Seniors Centre
The Calgary Foundation
Calgary Public Library
United Way of Calgary and Area

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Michelle Dober
Mackenzie Duncan
Harrison Funk
Laura Hickli
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Roslie Main
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Billy Tran
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John Vickers Design

Photography
Jeremy Klager

Bowness Community Association
Represent · Facilitate · Enhance

BOWNESS 2020

BOWNESS'S VitalSigns®

United Way Calgary and Area

The Calgary Foundation