Trellis – Helping Communities Grow
P. 12

Meet the Board of the Bowness Community Association
P. 21

Faces of Bowness: Athlete Edition
P. 25

BOWEST'NER

Newsletter of the Bowness Community Association

July / August 2023

BOWNESS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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iheartbowness@mybowness.com

WEBSITE
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SOCIAL MEDIA
@MyBowness

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

THE LANDING

Daytime Drop-In
Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Food and Beverage Service
Summer Hours TBA at time of publication

We acknowledge the neighbourhood of Bowness is located on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy and is also home of Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. As residents of the Treaty 7 region, we seek to live, work and play in ways that honour and respect the spirit of the treaties and the lives of our Indigenous neighbours.

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ON THE COVER

The Rocking Kings jamming out at Run Bowness 2023.

Photo by Logan Renaud

BOWEST'NER
JULY / AUGUST 2023

The Bowest'ner is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Bowness Community Association (BCA).

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CIRCULATION
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Have an idea for a content submission? Get in touch with editor@mybowness.com for volunteer opportunities on the BCA Communications Committee.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hey Bownesians!

Summer is in full swing, and aren't summers in Bowness glorious! All it takes is an evening walk along the river to feel transported (and a little bit like I'm on vacation). I had the realization one day standing by the river that because my body is 80% water, I can also say that I'm 80% Bow River — and so are you!

I am proud to say that I ran and completed the Run Bowness 10K as promised. I am even more proud to be part of this community for the way we showed up to have fun, volunteer, and celebrate one another. It was a special day and I already can't wait for next year!

There's plenty happening in Bowness this summer, so keep on reading for your invitation to Movie in the Park as well as more BCA ARTS events and community projects here at the Community Association. And of course, it wouldn't be summer in Bowness without the Lions Stampede Parade and Breakfast. Head to page 14 for a feature contributed last summer about Harold Graham and the origins of this annual event hosted by the Bowness Lions.

There's plenty more to read about in this summer edition so I won't keep you any longer. Enjoy the Bowest'ner, and I'll see you in the fall!

Logan

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SEPT/OCT ISSUE ARE DUE:

JULY 28, 2023

E–NEWSLETTER
Sign up at mybowness.com to receive our monthly email newsletter, and stay up to date on all the happenings at the BCA.

BCA HAPPENINGS

SUMMER EVENTS

MOVIE IN THE PARK PRESENTED BY SERVUS CREDIT UNION
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19 | 9PM MOVIE START, POP-UP MARKET 5-9 PM HOSTED BY BOWNESS SOAPWORKS

THE BCA | 7904 43 AVE NW

Join us in the BCA greenspace for a free outdoor movie, sponsored by Servus Credit Union. This year's movie is the new Super Mario Bros! The movie begins at 9PM, but come early to check out local vendors at the pop-up market running 5 -9 PM, hosted by Bowness Soapworks.

Concession available, or bring your own treats (along with lawn chairs and blankets if you'd like!)

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HAPPENINGS AND ACTIVITIES

ALL LISTED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE AT THE BOWNESS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (7904 43 AVE NW)
VISIT MYBOWNESS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION

CALGARY'S COOKING GROUP
Spots are still available for this budget-friendly twice-a-month cooking group in partnership with Community Kitchens Calgary! Learn more and sign up by emailing Anna at calgarys.cooking@ckpyyc

We are also still happily accepting the following donations for our kitchen: Metal mixing bowls, white cutting boards, metal whisks, pots with lids, cookie sheets. Donations can be dropped off at the BCA M-T 9-4PM, F 9AM - 12PM

DROP IN PLAY UPDATE
Drop in Play is over for the summer. Visit www.caryacalgary.ca for information on other community programs hosted by carya.

ELEVENSES COFFEE CLUB
THURSDAYS | 11AM-12PM

Come join our Bowness Hub team, Nicola and Tess, for "Elevenses" — coffee, tea and snacks every Thursday from 11am-12pm upstairs in The Landing at the BCA (elevator and wheel chair accessible). There's free wifi, a toybox, and games. Come for a chat and community connection. All ages welcome.

FREE PUBLIC SKATE
THURSDAYS IN JULY | 12-1:30PM

Join us for free drop-in Public Skate on Thursdays from 12-1:30pm at the BCA. Helmets required for skaters under 18. (There will be no public skate during the month of August.)

THE LANDING
MONDAY - FRIDAY | 9AM - 9PM

Stop by The Landing on the second floor of he BCA weekdays to enjoy this drop-in public space (elevator and wheelchair accessible). Help yourself to wifi, tables, pay-what-you-want coffee and tea (or bring your own food and refreshments), plus a toy box for the kids!

Summer food and beverage hours not available at time of publishing. Check mybowness.com/the-landing for latest updates.

PICKLEBALL AT THE BCA

Pickleball court bookings are currently available by waitlist only at www.mybowness.com.

Immediate play opportunities at the BCA are available through the following third party organizations:

Calgary Pickleball - www.calgarypickleballclub.ca

Pickleball Connect - www.pickleballconnect.ca.

SENIOR'S TOONIE SKATE

TUESDAYS IN JULY | 9:30-11AM

Open to all who consider themselves Seniors! Drop in from 9:30-11am every Tuesday for Toonie Skate ($2) at the BCA. (There will be no Senior's skate during the month of August.)

SHINNY

VARIOUS TIMES IN JULY (CLOSED AUGUST)

The BCA offers $10 full-equipment shinny at various times throughout the week for Ladies, 40+, and Open signups. Check online at mybowness.com for latest times. (There will be no shinny during the month of August.)

UN–WINED STITCHERS

THURSDAYS | 7-9PM

Calling all stitchers! Join this stitching meetup for crocheters, knitters, embroiderers, felters, needle-punchers, and more. This group meets every Thursday from 7-9pm in The Landing upstairs at the BCA (elevator and wheelchair accessible).

Pay-what-you-want coffee and tea will be available.

FACILITY RENTALS

Did you know, the BCA facilities are available for rent with discounts for BCA members?

Visit mybowness.com to learn more about renting the rink, The Landing, the hall and courts, or our commercially licensed kitchen.

VOLUNTEER

Visit mybowness.com for current one-off and ongoing volunteer opportunities at the BCA.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

May 13 was a momentous day for the BCA as over 60 volunteers came together to bring the BCA Community Garden to life!

A special thanks to our Volunteer Garden Committee for their behind the scenes efforts over the past year to make this project possible. Becky, Christina, Christine, David, Jeff, Jennifer, Jimmy, Kashfia, Laura, Molly, Sam, and Tess — Bowness thanks and appreciates you!

Learn more about the garden and see photos from the build day at mybowness.com/garden.

BCA ARTS (ARTISTIC RESIDENT TALENT SHARE)

BCA featured artist, Jamie Bowen, joins us this July and August! Check out her exciting offerings below, and learn more about Jamie on page 16. All events take place at the BCA.

For more info, visit mybowness.com/arts or contact us at:

403-288-8300 | communityhub@mybowness.com
7904 43 Ave NW

The BCA ARTS Program is made possible with support from Calgary Arts Development and the Community Hubs Initiative: A partnership between Rotary, The City of Calgary, and United Way of Calgary and Area.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

'Weaving a Local Rainbow' Community Weaving Project

Let's weave a rainbow of local color! We'll be weaving together a tapestry with solar-dyed strips made by YOU! With two ways to participate, this project is open to everyone.

Option 1: Solar-dye materials for the project

Pick-up a solar dying kit at one of the locations below (or gather your own supplies) and bring in materials and add to the weaving. Step-by-step dyeing instructions are available on page16, at mybowness.com, or on Jamie's blog, dandylynn.com.

Solar dye kit pickups:

Bowness Stampede Parade & Breakfast - July 8, 2023

Tour de Bowness - August 7, 2023

The BCA Office 7904 43 Ave NW (office hours only)

Option 2: Help us weave solar-dyed materials

Come use the loom in The Landing at BCA during July and August before August 26. Bring the materials you dyed, or add some from Jamie's basket of materials.

'Weaving a Local Rainbow' Community Weaving Project Showcase

Saturday, August 26 | 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Drop-in, all ages welcome

Join us for the unveiling of the community weaving project, along with artwork from Jamie showcasing locally sourced dyes and colours as well as photography by M. Scott Ault.

WORKSHOPS

Join Jamie in some exciting fibre art workshops. No experience needed — all events take place at the BCA with free refreshments, snacks, and childminding for little ones not participating.

Please note that anyone 14 and under participating in the workshops must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

BUNDLE DYE

SATURDAY, JULY 22 | 10AM-12PM

AGES 16+ | ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT MYBOWNESS.COM/ARTS

Come explore natural dyeing with flowers, trees and bugs (optional). We will create a bandana in this workshop and also have a discussion about how to pre-treat your materials for dying.

NEEDLE FELTING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 | TWO SESSIONS, 10AM-12PM OR 1-3PM

AGES 10+ | DROP-IN

Learn to needle felt while creating a pumpkin for autumn. No experience needed. Needles are sharp so parents must accompany children if attending.

KNITTING

AUGUST 22 & 29 | 7- 9PM

AGES 10+ | DROP-IN

Learn the basics of knitting, casting on and off and how to knit and purl. Come to one class or two. Once you've learned the basics in class you can join the Un-wined in Bowness Stitchers meetup night on Thursdays at the BCA and Jamie can help you through a project.

MENDING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 | 11AM-2PM

AGES 8+ | DROP-IN

Extend the life of your wardrobe by picking up some mending skills. Bring along something that needs mending or practice on some materials we provide. Drop-in anytime between 11-2 and Jamie will teach you a few techniques such as Sashiko, boro, and visible mending through needle felting.

QUALITY OF LIFE REPORT

Thank you to all who filled out the Quality of Life Survey in June! Keep an eye out for the survey report coming this Fall in the Bowest'ner and online at mybowness.com

FOOD WEEK

BOWNESS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION | community hubs initiative WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS | Calgary United Way | Rotary

Coming this September: Neighbourhood Food Week!

A week-long celebration and exploration of cultivating community around food in Bowness, Greenwood Village and Montgomery.

Free food fun for all ages!
Shared meals • Workshops • Contests
Resources • Food Fair

Full activities schedule coming Sep. 1st with two ways to get involved now:

ENTER OUR FOOD ART CONTEST!
Answering the theme "What does food mean to you?", create a drawing, painting or other artistic work for a chance to win a prize, with all entries displayed for the week. More info and entry forms on our website & at the BCA office - 7904 43 Ave NW.

JOIN US!
Calling all interested partners, volunteers, and vendors to come participate in our buffet of activities.

Learn more at mybowness.com/food

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WIRE WHEEL

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Little Shop Of Pleasures

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For every dollar spent at a local business, 40 cents stays in your community! Walk, drive, or bike down to Mainstreet Bowness and check out our incredible local businesses. We've got everything from e-bikes to margaritas!

Follow us on Instagram @mainstreet.bowness.bia and check out our website www.mainstreetbowness.com for upcoming events

Bowness Lions

Helping youth, seniors, people with disabilities, families in need.

Friendly, action-oriented adults and youth working together to enhance our Bowness Community.

Global service projects focus on vision, hunger, environment, diabetes, pediatric cancer and natural disaster relief.

Local service projects support BowWest Community Resource Centre, Bowness Community Association activities, Bowness Seniors, Bowness Scouts and Guides, Bowness Stampede Parade and Pancake Breakfast, Bowness schools and various other local and provincial charities.

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Google *Bowness Lions Club* for information

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TRELLIS HELPING COMMUNITIES GROW

An interview with Jeff Dyer and Erin Henrikson–Ireland from Trellis Society
By Alex Judd

Trellis Society operates across Calgary, with a Bowness location (7930 Bowness Rd NW) serving children, youth and families in the area. BCA volunteer Alex Judd sat down with Bowness Hub Manager Erin Henriksen-Ireland and Trellis Society CEO Jeff Dyer to learn how Trellis is helping grow community care in Bowness and beyond.

Tell us about Trellis! What communities does it serve, and what problems does it solve?

Jeff: We know in our city that a lot of people are really struggling. We imagine ourselves as a trellis, hidden away behind the scenes and putting people front and centre so they can return to flourishing in their communities. We divide our work into two categories: housing support and community well-being. We support peoples' journeys from homelessness to home as rapidly as possible, or help out families who are struggling with keeping their housing. And we run a range of community-based programs like the Club here in Bowness.

Erin: At the Bowness Club, we have a preschool program, an after school club, youth programming, and parents' programs. We also serve as a hub where folks can come and meet with housing support, counsellors, and employment support. The way that all our programs work together is pretty special. I can have someone come in and say they need help with food, then talk to the family and connect them to parenting support or preschool with Trellis as well. Our focus is support across the lifespan.

How can people in the community access your services?

Erin: Just visit us! We get a lot of walk-ins and emails from people accessing us through our website, as well as referrals from neighbourhood schools and word of mouth.

Jeff: For someone needing the kind of support we offer, it's often a complex process to navigate the systems of support, and it's dehumanizing to have to tell your story over and over again. We try to limit all of that. If you walk through our door, we want you to feel a big sense of relief. We will navigate it for you, and make it as simple as possible so you get the help you need.

What have you learned or loved about working with Trellis?

Erin: Working in the same community that I live in has been a really unique experience. When I go to events like the powwow, I see so many of our families there. My daughter goes to school here. I have a better understanding of what the community's needs are because of it, and I feel really lucky to have that perspective.

Jeff: I want to do something that feels really meaningful and connects the things I care most about. I've got 20 and 17 year old kids who grew up going to schools in the neighbourhood, and I knew they were acquainted with people who were struggling. It feels really good to be able to give back and to be a part of that.

Is there an achievement that you're particularly proud of?

Jeff: Right before the pandemic, we were known as the Boys and Girls Club, but we knew that because we were working largely with children, independent of their families, we weren't able to make the impact that we wanted, so we merged with another family agency (Aspen Family and Community Network). I'm so proud of our team for getting through this time. We remained faithful to people in their moments of crisis, and we took root to offer more services.

What are the biggest challenges facing your community?

Jeff: The opioid crisis has really impacted people. It doesn't matter where you come from, or how rich or poor you are. I'm not sure that addiction is more prevalent than it used to be, but the type of drugs people have access to now are dangerous. We lose a lot of people in our Trellis Community and it's traumatic.

We're also having an existential crisis in Alberta where it's questioned whether people who are different than us belong in our communities, and this exposes them to a bad level of vulnerability. We see people disproportionately excluded based on being from different ethnic backgrounds, being Indigenous, or being part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. And as a result, they often have to lean on Trellis.

Erin: The economic crisis is another high stressor for a lot of families right now. The pandemic has not impacted everybody equally. Inflation and the rising cost of living have impacted people who earn the least, people on fixed incomes, and single parents. It's also caused isolation in general. So it's important for us to build up natural support networks for families. If families can get to know and support their neighbours, that's huge.

What gives you hope?

Erin: People keep showing up. There's something about Trellis where people feel like they belong, and they keep sending others to us who need support. Knowing that people are excited about what we're doing gives me hope.

Jeff: The tenacity and brilliance of our staff, mixed with the resiliency and encouragement of the people that we serve. There's countless stories of people who are thriving in ways that they never imagined possible.

How can parents get their children involved this summer?

Erin: We are running 4 weeks of preschool and kindergarten summer camps, as well as 7 weeks of Grade 1-6 summer camps that anyone can join. We are working on other ways to keep people engaged over the summer like cool field trips. We don't want finances to be a barrier for folks, so if people are worried about that, they can reach out to me to make a plan.

Jeff: We'll also be at the Bowness Stampede Breakfast, so you can come see Erin at our booth!

How can Bownesians help?

Erin: We're always looking for people that want to share their skills. We have youth that are dying to learn how to play instruments, and don't have access to that. Donating old instruments, or sharing art or athletic skills — we would love to have people come hang out in our space and teach our kids.

Jeff: I've lived here for almost 14 years, and the beauty of this place is that it's truly a neighbourhood. There's a sense of place and belonging. The best thing I could tell people is to go check on your neighbours. If they can just help out the folks who are nearest to them, that is an extension of what Trellis is trying to be.

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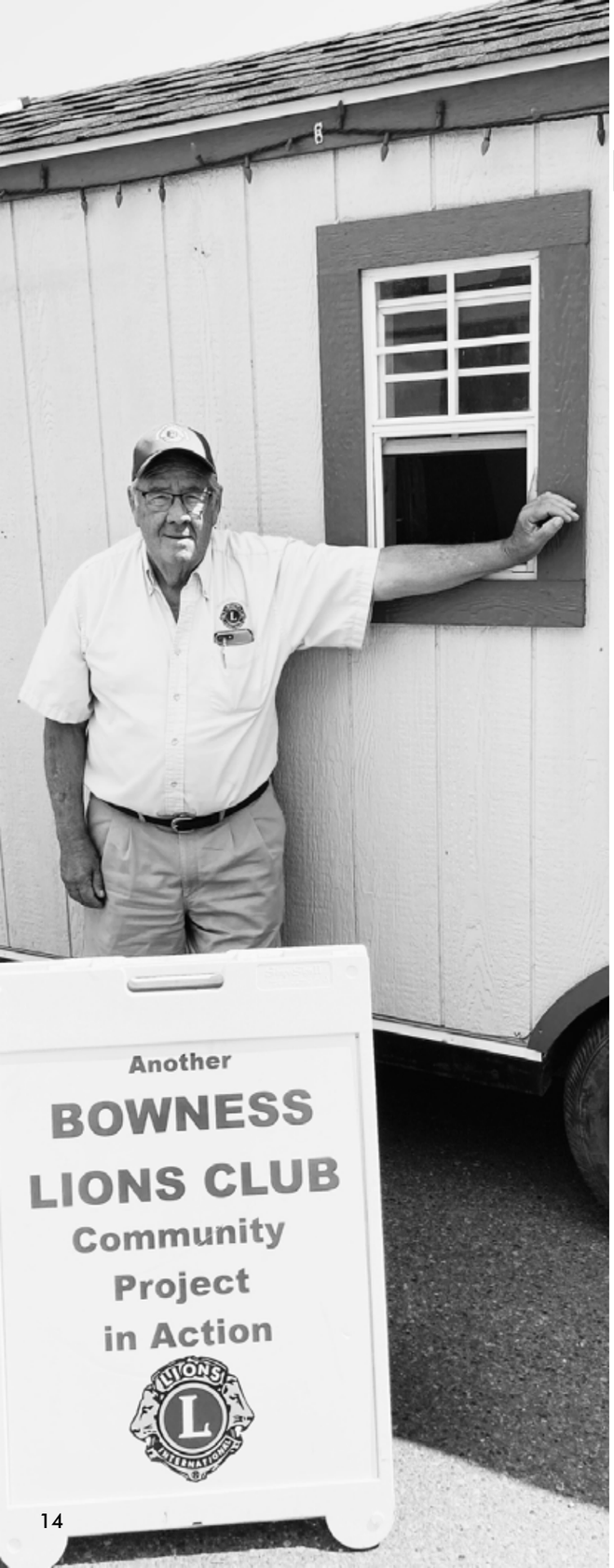

HAROLD GRAHAM A LION OF THE COMMUNITY

By April Vyas

Harold Graham seems a mixture of contradictions: a dreamer but a doer, a loud 'voice' with a quiet demeanour, the 'face out front' or the 'idea behind'. However, interlaced throughout is a caring personality of engagement and service that has blessed Bowness for many years.

Harold moved here from Saskatchewan in 1972, initially attracted by cheap housing prices. His two sons Shawn and Sheldon completed their schooling in Bowness, and he and his wife Elaine still live in his original home. His second home, as he calls it, is the Scout and Lions Hall--just a few blocks away. Both reflect his fifty-plus years of contributions to our community.

As a father he remembers many years of coaching hockey at the rink when it was in a stand-alone building. He also became a leader with the 48th and then the 169th Bowmont Scouts. Given his construction background and forward-looking attitude, Harold started to explore fundraising opportunities to replace the aging Scout Hall built in 1937. One of the ideas was a Christmas tree sale which continues to this day with Harold at the helm.

Another small idea that grew was a pancake breakfast that included a bike raffle sponsored by the Lions. The year after, Harold drove his ride-on lawnmower down Bowness Road followed by excited kids riding colourfully-decorated bicycles. Thirty years later, that breakfast and 'parade' has blossomed into a treasured Bowness tradition shared by several generations.

The new Scout and Lion Hall became a reality in 2012 providing space for the Scouts, the Lions and community events. Today, Harold remains a dedicated Lions member and neighbourhood volunteer. Whether flipping pancakes and burgers or fundraising by selling 50/50 tickets from the blue and yellow Lions 'mini house' which he created, Harold is always looking for ways to serve.

Details on this year's parade and breakfast can be found on page 19.

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BCA ARTS

AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMIE BOWEN

Above: Bundle dying a bandana. Join Jamie on July 22 to do this for yourself (see page 7 for workshop details).

Below: Needle felting a pumpkin. Create your own with Jamie at her August 12 workshop (workshop details on page 7).

Jamie Bowen is this summer's featured ARTS artist here at the BCA. We sat down with her for a conversation about art, sustainability, and moving closer to where the sheep are! Turn back to pages 6 and 7 for details on all of Jamie's free events coming up this summer, and don't miss out on participating in the community weaving and solar dyeing project!

Tell us a bit about yourself and your history with the neighbourhood.
"I've been in Calgary for the past five and a half years, but I'm from BC originally. The reason I moved is partly to do with my work as a fiber artist — we were shipping all of our wool from Carstairs! We decided nothing was keeping us in BC, so we thought 'let's move closer to where the sheep are!'

We ended up in Bowness because 30 years ago my husband lived here and he always thought it seemed like a cool place. We've stayed around because the community is amazing. We know all of our neighbours — our neighbour across the street is like a grandma to all of the kids on the block."

How did you come to be an artist, and what mediums do you work with?
"I've been creating my whole life. My grandmother taught me to knit when I was about 10 and I played with it off and on. And I was always drawn to doing different crafty, artsy things. In my 20s I was in Vancouver and I really picked up knitting again and started taking a few different classes.

Then I had my daughter so we left Vancouver 11 years ago and went to the Okanagan. My husband and I started needle felting and started a small business doing that. And then when COVID hit, I started natural dyeing as well.

So I now have a business with my husband needle felting, selling supplies and teaching, along with my art practice which includes needle felting and natural dyeing. I'm even growing my own flowers!

I just started last year and I'm not a plant person! But I was determined. So I killed a lot, but I did manage to grow a few different flowers right from seeds. I dry them out and I use them in different techniques, such as bundle dyeing, where I lay the flowers out and then roll the fabric and steam it to leave imprints. We're going to do a workshop on that here!"

That seems like a slow and patient process – what inspires you?
"For me, environmentalism has always been key. I believe in using local materials, that's why my needle felting uses all local sheep. It's all processed locally with minimal chemicals to be healthy for the environment, myself, and others. And then there's just something amazing about actually being able to grow and produce.

I recently got accepted into a gallery show at the Alberta Craft Council. I'm proud to begin pushing my art into that realm — I've always just sold online kits until now.

This weekend we did a Maker Fair and we had a table where we taught needle felting. We had the cutest kid come and he loved it so much. He bought a kit and he spent the whole day on it, and when he came back to show us he was literally jumping for joy! When I can bring that joy to others, that definitely makes my heart happy.

So my goal for this year was to try and get out into the community and meet others. So for me, the ARTS Program is a really great way to be able to share my passions and get to know others."

Tell us a bit about what you have in store for the neighbourhood during your time as an ARTS featured artist!
"As part of the ARTS Program, we're going to do a community art project on solar dyeing.
The idea is that I'll put together solar dyeing kits that anyone can pick up and do at home, and then when they're done, they can bring it to the BCA to add to the community weaving that will be set up here.

And then we'll have all kinds of workshops! One on bundle dyeing, one on needle felting, one on knitting, and one on visible mending so people can come in and learn some techniques to mend their clothes.

And to cap it off, we'll have a small celebration and art show where the finished weaving is going to be shown, along with a few more pieces I'll be working on through the summer."

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for dates and details for each of these great events.

SOLAR DYEING

Supplies

- Mason jar
- Dye stuff (marigolds, onion skins, dahlias, cosmos,hollyhocks, black beans find more ideas on my blog) use 100-200% WOF (weight of your fibre you are dying) 5 grams of fibre would be 5-10 grams of dye material
- Alum 2 tsp per 100grams of fibre available at grocery store in spice area or contact me.
- Natural fibre (wool,cotton,linen, yarns or fabric cut in a strip at least 26" long)
- Water
- Sun

Directions

- Pre-wet your fibers , place fibre in bowl of water, Let them sit for 20–30 minutes
- Add warm water to mason jar(fill 1/3 full) add Alum, let it dissolve
- Add 1/2 of dye stuff
- Add fibre
- Add rest of dye stuff
- Add water to fill jar, place lid on.
- Label jar with dye and date
- Place in sunny spot, leave for 1 week up to 3 months
- When desired shade is achieved, take out of jar with gloved hand, rinse in cold water, let it dry and rest for 1-2 weeks
- Wash gently with a gentle soap

- Any questions please email dandylynnstudio@gmail.com
- Follow the project on my blog www.dandylynn.com , Instagram@dandylynnstudio , Facebook @dandylynnstudio
- Share your process and results by using #localcoloryyc

Step 1
Pick up your solar dyeing kit

Solar dye kit pickups:
Bowness Stampede Parade & Breakfast - July 8, 2023
Tour de Bowness - August 7, 2023
The BCA Office 7904 43 Ave NW (office hours only)

Step 2
Bring it to the BCA before August 26 to be added to the community weaving project!

Learn more about Weaving a Local Rainbow on page 6.

BOWNESS MONTGOMERY LAW OFFICE

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Call to speak with *Anthony Merah *Amina Muhammad *Nazeef Muhammad
*Colleen Hustad (Legal Assistant) *Kerry McClelland (Retired)

COMMUNITY NEWS

JULY UPDATE FROM WARD 1 COUNCILLOR SONYA SHARP

Hello Ward 1! Summer is in full swing. The long, warm days mean there is lots of time to get out and enjoy all the wonderful things that Calgary has to offer. One of those things is of course the Calgary Stampede, which is just around the corner. I am looking forward to connecting with constituents at several pancake breakfasts and community events over the 10 days of Stampede.

July is a busy month for City Council and Administration as we tie up loose ends before meetings of Council and committees resume in September. Administration is hard at work developing the 2023-2026 Service Plan and Budgets which will inform city services and taxes for the next four years. When this comes to Council in November, I'll be fighting to ensure that Calgarians see clear value for their money with more predictable property tax bills. I will keep you updated here and online as this work progresses.

The City of Calgary runs a number of free summer programs for adults, kids and families. Find sessions for playing, learning or staying in shape at Calgary.ca/free. The City is piloting bikes on CTrains during all operating hours until August 31. Share your feedback on this pilot at calgarytransit.com/CTrainBikePilot.

Throughout the year, The City runs public engagement on a variety of issues that affect you and your community. You can contribute your feedback and view the results of previous engagements online at engage.calgary.ca.

Sign up for the most up-to-date news on what's happening at City Hall and in your community by subscribing to my email newsletter at Calgary.ca/Ward1. We always welcome your questions and comments.

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL

OLA students and staff had a busy wrap up to the year!

Numerous athletic teams hit the fields for flag football and track & field, students went on numerous trips, faith sacraments were celebrated, and ALL students participated in activity days.

We are pleased to announce that Summit Kids will be offering before/after and kinder care for the 2023-24 school year. Registration for K-9 as well as the childcare program is ongoing.

Please contact the school at 403-500-2045 for inquiries regarding our fantastic school!

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing all of our families and new families on September 5 & 6 for staggered entry.

Blessings from all of our Admin and staff,
Mrs. Horton
Principal Our Lady of the Assumption school

BOWNESS RESPONSIBLE FLOOD MITIGATION SOCIETY

The flooding in 2013 was catastrophic for many in Bowness and efforts continue to achieve responsible flood mitigation Bowness.

A lot has happened in the ten years since the flood. The City raised the gates of the Glenmore Reservoir and strongly advocated for the SR-1 "dry reservoir" which will protect Elbow River communities to a 1:200 flood for overland and groundwater. For the Bow River, the Province renewed the TransAlta Operating Agreement, lowering the Ghost Reservoir during flood season, and continues to study three upstream reservoir options. The City has commenced or completed projects downstream of Bowness including the downtown flood barrier and Sunnyside stormwater improvements. The City has paused plans for barriers in Bowness and Sunnyside.

The Bowness Responsible Flood Mitigation Society continues to advocate for equitable upstream mitigation that protects Bowness from both overland and groundwater flooding. While many steps have been taken to protect communities, we argue that current design targets for reservoir options being studied for the Bow River leave Bowness vulnerable to flooding from both overland water and groundwater. This can be achieved if upstream mitigation is designed to keep river flow below 800 m3/s.

For more information visit www.bownessrfm.ca

THE BOWNESS LEGION BRANCH #238

The Bowness Legion 238 invites you to join their Wild Wild West Stampede from July 6-16 at the Legion. This free event is open to the public with daily live entertainment and our famous chuckwagon races.

You are also invited to enter or attend the Legion's 2nd annual Show and Shine on Aug 12 from 10am-4pm at the Legion. Registration for cars is at 9am.

The Legion also offers many leagues including pool, darts, poker, cribbage and shuffleboard. The Legion is located at 138 Bowness Centre NW. For more information visit our website www.rcl238.com

32ND ANNUAL BOWNESS STAMPEDE PARADE AND BREAKFAST

This year's parade and breakfast is being held on July 8 by the Bowness Lion's Club and Discover Bowness, a citizen-led organization. You can reach out to them for information on volunteering or entering a float. Breakfast starts at 7:30 am and the parade starts at 9:00 am. Turn back to page 14 to read more about Harold Graham and the history of the parade in Bowness!

FLOODING IN BOWNESS

Photo above: Mr. and Mrs. Grassick
Photo below: Grassick House in Bowness Park - 1947

BOWNESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Part 1 - Early Floods
By Anne Campbell

As with many riverside communities, Bowness has been subject to flooding throughout the years, with floods being reported as early as 1879.

In 1929, a period of continuous rain occurred between May 31 and June 4, with the Bow River peaking at 1320 cubic metres per second on June 3 in Calgary. On June 3 the Calgary Herald reported: "Bowness Park… was swamped beneath a muddy, swirling flood of water… both dams on the west end of the park broke under the pressure and within 15 minutes the whole park was submerged. The bathhouse crumpled up like a pack of cards, and was swept away. In the big dance pavilion, the expensive hardwood floor crumpled under the pressure, and tables and chairs danced around the swirling eddies of the flood waters."

June 1932 saw another period of very wet weather with heavy runoff from the foothills, once again resulting in major flooding along the Bow and Elbow Rivers. The flood peaked at 1500 cubic metres per second on June 3. Once again Bowness Park was completely submerged with the new dance hall floor under six feet of muddy water. The roadways were washed out and the swimming pool was wrecked. Homes and farms in Bowness were flooded out, and across the river at Keith, the ice plant suffered $8,000 damage.

A winter flood in 1947 resulted in two families having to leave their homes in the middle of the night, leading to the loss of their homes and a life. Gordon Grassick, a twenty-nine year old army veteran, had built a home in the Bowness Park area, completing it in time for the arrival of his Scottish bride and three year old daughter just six weeks previous to the flood. A gurgling noise awakened Mrs. Grassick sometime after midnight. She woke her husband, who looked out the window and said they were flooding and had to get out right away. As they traversed the rising water, Mrs. Grassick held on to a tree for safety while Mr. Grassick managed to wade through nearly 120 yards of armpit-high icy water to bring their daughter to their neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Dynes. They were also marooned with their two small daughters in the attic of their home. Mr. and Mrs. Dynes hung an electric light out of their window on an extension cord to guide rescuers to their home. A man named Jerry Rogers attempted a rescue in a rowboat, but capsized a short way from shore. Later, Robert Galbraith and Ernest Hoar set out in another rowboat to attempt a rescue. They managed to get the Grassicks on board, but Mr. Grassick was so numb from the cold that he was unable to move his legs and help himself into the boat and perished.

The Bowness Historical Society is a group of residents committed to promoting and preserving the history of Bowness. They contribute regularly to the Bowest'ner and their book Bowness: Past and Present, 1911-2011 is available for sale at the BCA office.

Meet the Board of the Bowness Community Association

Did you know? The BCA's Board of Directors are community members who are elected by the membership each year at our AGM. They volunteer their time, expertise, and leadership to build community and help make Bowness a better place.

We asked our board members a few questions so you could get to know them better.

JASON NEW – PRESIDENT
Jason moved to Bowness in 2012 because of its desirable location next to the river, uniqueness, and it being an established community. Since then Jason has come to experience the various events, resources, and people in Bowness. He has been impressed with the community involvement and has had a unique and enjoyable experience over the last 11 years. Jason is an engineer by trade and is interested in building and automating things as well as assisting the community through volunteering.

BEVERLEY SHERIDAN – TREASURER
I have lived in Bowness for 15 years. Anne Campbell, a former Director, asked me to join. She and I are involved with the Bowness Garden Club.

I have run two companies, including my own, and have been a member of several corporate boards. Outside of the BCA I am an avid gardener and I write the Bowtanical Garden column for the Bowest'ner. When I am not gardening, I am travelling.

I am currently Treasurer for the Board. I am hoping to improve my skills in this area as I have never been involved with a not for profit organization.

As a gardener, I have to say the new Community Garden is going to be wonderful. I also really enjoy participating in our community events such as Movie in the Park and the Tour de Bowness in conjunction with Mainstreet Bowness.

JEFFREY RIEDL – DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
I've lived in Bowness for 18 years. I went for a massage one day and the masseur, despite my request for a silent session, convinced me to join the board!

I am fairly well versed in the City's planning policy and I bring this knowledge and experience to the Planning and Development Committee.

I enjoy learning about the local history of Bowness by way of the residents that remember. There are so many crazy stories — and some of them are even true! I am very excited about the Community Garden Project.

MIEKE COPPES – VICE PRESIDENT
I moved to Bowness in 2020 and immediately looked to join the board. I wanted to help build a strong community and put down roots, so I reached out to the BCA within weeks of moving in.

I have experience in facilitation and events planning. Outside of the BCA I am passionate about international relations and hiking.

I want to learn more about how local and community government works. I am interested in who makes decisions, how they do that, and the impact of the outcomes.

I am excited by the community craft fairs. I love supporting small and local businesses. And I'm excited to see how we can continue doing that as the BCA.

BENTLEY WILKS – DIRECTOR AT LARGE
I moved to Bowness in 2014, but carry a longer lineage having attended Bowness High School in the mid 90's. On a suggestion from board member Jeff Riedl, I joined.

Having sat on the Planning and Development Committee for 3 years before joining the board, I'm aware of city bylaws and regulations concerning building. I want to have a hand in the outcome of our community as we inevitably densify.

I am excited about our development and density in ways that doesn't detract from a Bowness feel.

JIMMY DOYLE – SECRETARY/DIRECTOR OF HR
I've been involved in the Calgary Chieftains and Bowness soccer for many years, and we used the BCA hall as our winter training facility. Through that relationship, and also living close to the BCA, I found myself spending more time at the location and getting to know the people involved.

I've been involved in various community organizations in my life and worked with multiple boards in various roles. I have some financial experience as well as event planning, volunteer recruitment, and construction project experience. My passions would be sport, film, and as I age, I'm also enjoying gardening.

I hope to get to know more of my neighbours in Bowness through service on the board. I have already got to know many locals and look forward to meeting more.

I'm currently most excited about the Heart of Bowness project, including the community garden which we've recently started constructing. It should be a great space for everyone in the community.

HARVEY MATCHULLIS – DIRECTOR AT LARGE
We moved here in June 2021. I've been on community boards before and really wanted to engage again in Bowness. Some contacts invited me to attend a meeting to check things out and I'm still attending!

I've been involved in non-profit leadership my entire career, mostly in cross cultural contexts. I travel a lot, but am committed to living local and building community with my neighbours. I also love renovations and tinkering, gardening, my fish pond and anything outdoors.

I'd like to learn and grow in being part of helping Bownesians continue to build deep community bonds — where knowing our neighbours contributes to overall well being, security and a sense of belonging.
I am impressed at the incredible variety of things this community has to offer and give kudos to the amazing BCA staff that facilitates so much for us all. The community gardens is a fabulous addition. I'm excited about more ideas emerging on how to strengthen neighbour to neighbour connections.

DAVID MCCULLOCH – DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

I have lived in Bowness for 30 years. I manage a team that looks after Industrial Portfolios in Calgary and the surrounding area. My family have been members at the BCA and volunteered in one way or another for many years. My kids have played sports there, relationships have been built, and I thought the operations team could use some advice. My passion is understanding how buildings live and breathe — I find myself zeroing in on these items when I visit all buildings I walk into.

I've got to play a small role in transforming the Facilities footprint to bring people together. Using the vacant space here is important — we are not just a hockey arena! And there is land outside the building that can be utilized. Bowness is my home and improvements to my home excite me. At the BCA, It's not hard to find like-minded people who share some of your vision and ideas.

ANGELINA SELVALINGHAM – DIRECTOR AT LARGE
I moved to Bowness in early 2020. One of my best friends grew up in Bowness and still lives here. He always spoke highly of Bowness, and that led me to make this vibrant community my home.

I wanted a way to actively participate in the community. Serving on the BCA board is my way of reciprocating the warmth and sense of belonging I have experienced here while contributing to the growth and well-being of Bowness.

As a Director at Large, I contribute to both the Finance and HR & Nominating committees, leveraging the expertise gained from my day-to-day work in these areas. But my biggest passion is meeting new people and fostering a strong sense of community, especially among neighbours. This includes trying to convince my friends to move here so they can meet the wonderful people of Bowness.

Outside of my involvement with the BCA, I enjoy spending time outdoors (biking and hiking), connecting with friends, meeting new people, playing board games, and hosting backyard fires.

One of my favourite things is Faces of Bowness. I love how it showcases the rich tapestry of our community while fostering connections and building relationships.

JESSICA CLARK – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
I've lived in Bowness for a collective total of 38 years and I came to the board by way of 'retiring' as a staff member. There's lots of great work and opportunities happening, and even though I was no longer staff, I wanted to continue to support Bowness.

As Chair of the Communications Committee and a former BCA employee I bring the perspective of a resident, employee, participant, and volunteer. The EGOT of community building if you will? I have over 12 years of experience in communications. As a former employee, I helped grow our communications strategy which led to the creation of a full time, permanent communications position at the BCA, and helped expand our communications committee of 2 to almost a dozen active volunteers.

Outside of the BCA I spend time with my dog, my partner Sunny, and friends and family. I like to weightlift, paddleboard, mountain bike, garden, read, work on DIY projects at home and travel.

I'm excited to see how the community is pulling itself out of the pandemic. During the pandemic, many Facebook groups popped up like Bowness Cares where folks would ask for or offer support. As a kid growing up in Bowness, we did this all the time: mow someone's lawn, or shovel a sidewalk, look after a neighbour's dog or garden while they were away, or drive your kids friend to their hockey game. I see a lot of that coming back to Bowness, and it's a great way to strengthen the community and ensure folks get the support they need.

JENNIFER LOEWEN – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY GARDEN
I moved to Bowness a little over two years ago. I wanted to take a more active role in the community, and when I found out we were starting a community garden project, I joined the committee.

I work in philanthropy and am relatively comfortable with the granting process. I thought it would be helpful for the garden project. I was also part of another community garden a few years ago. I hope to see the garden project complete and thrive for many years to come.

I also have a growing passion for disc golf, and my friends and I like to travel to try out new courses when we can!

There are lots of new developments happening and what seems to be more younger people moving into Bowness. I am excited to grow with this community and see what new life it brings in the coming years.

From left to right: Jennifer Loewen, Beverley Sheridan, Mieke Coppes, Angelina Selvalingham, Jimmy Doyle, Harvey Matchullis, Bentley Wilks, David McCulloch, Jeffery Riedl (not pictured: Jason New and Jessica Clark)

DEB HALL

By day Deb Hall serves as the BCA's accountant, but by night she's an internationally competitive biathlon athlete!

"I've worked at the BCA for 10 years now, and I used to live in Bowness. My favourite things about Bowness are the diversity and the access to the parks.

In the winter I compete in biathlon, which is a combination of cross country skiing and marksmanship — so you ski and shoot, and then do penalty loops if you miss.

When my kids were little, we put them in a cross country ski program. It was getting kind of boring for them, so they wanted to try some biathlon. And since they were doing it, I thought I might as well try it out!

I love the community. It's all about doing your personal best and not so much about competing against your competitors. It's about the process of getting better.

I went to Finland to compete in the World Masters Biathlon Championships. All the signs are in Finnish and we got on the wrong train from the airport toward Sweden! But folks were very helpful to get us back to our destination. Then I had a really good race and a really good shooting day, and I came away with a bronze medal."

- Logan Renaud

ISAAK ULMER

"You gotta be kind of crazy to go down an icy chute in a little garbage can!"

Now in Grade 11, Isaak was introduced to bobsled through Bowness High's HPAD (High Performance Athlete Development Pathway) Program at age 15.

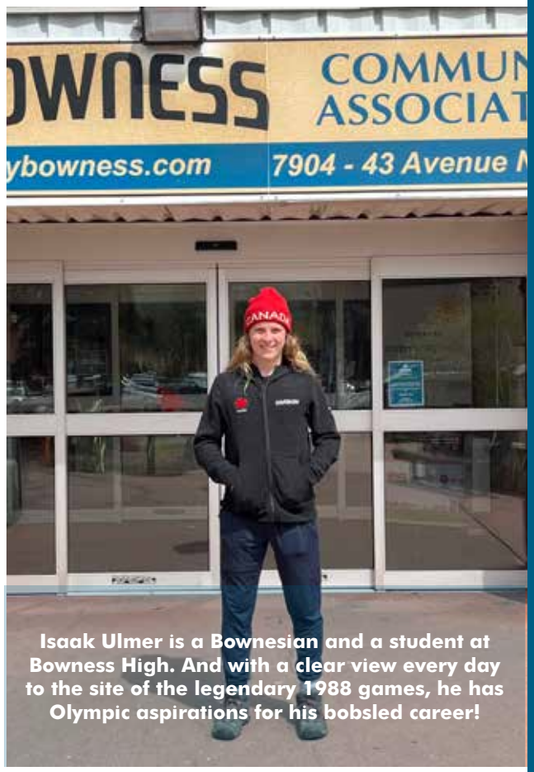
He most enjoys the feeling of freedom that comes with such high speeds. (Olympic runs can reach top speeds of over 120 KPH!)

Currently, Isaak is focussing on the mental aspects of driving technique which he recognizes is a key to success. Training with two Team Canada athletes, Christopher Spring and Daniel Sunderland, Isaak has competed in 2024 Youth Olympic Games qualifying races in Pyeongchang, South Korea and Lake Placid, NY.

Being raised in Bowness has given him an appreciation for the tightness of the community — he especially enjoys volunteering at community dinners.

Isaak's long term goals are making the National Team and one day, the Olympics.

- Teri Butler



Isaak Ulmer is a Bownesian and a student at Bowness High. And with a clear view every day to the site of the legendary 1988 games, he has Olympic aspirations for his bobsled career!

KANDI WYATT

Kandi was introduced to the world of boxing at the age of 8. 24 years later she's the WBA Intercontinental Champion. Her titles include Canadian National Champion, Ringside World Champion, Canadian National Team member and Rookie of the Year.

Kandi trains at Calgary Boxing Club and has worked in Bowness for 7 years, especially liking the eclectic mix of people and feeling like part of the community.

On July 1, she will compete for the title of World Boxing Champion in Manchester UK. Her long term goal is to defend this title year after year.

Kandi says that you have to learn to not be your own worst critic while mastering footwork, hand speed, power, ring strategy and boxing IQ. The sport has instilled a work ethic and discipline which have transferred into all areas of her life. "Boxing has helped mold me into who I am today and I actually really like that person."

- Teri Butler

A World Boxing Association Intercontinental Champion, you might also recognize Kandi Wyatt from Bowness's very own Cadence Coffee.

KEN HICKS

Ken Hicks can be found most days practicing billiards at the Bowness Legion Branch #238. Ken and Cy have represented Bowness at national Legion 8–ball championships since 2015. Pictured from left to right at the 2023 championship in Innisfail, AB: Ron Meier, Kim Bohnet, Cy Boersme, and Ken Hicks.

"I moved to Bowness in 2002. I was born and raised in Montgomery and I've been a member of the Bowness Legion Branch since 1990. I was a dart player then, but a friend of mine got into pool and asked me to play. So I rented a table and got my butt kicked every day until I got better! I still wasn't the best, but I played smart as part of a four man team with my friends Kim and Ron from Medicine Hat, and Cy who's also from Bowness. We won at the first Dominion (National) championship I played at in Calgary in 2015, and at Saskatchewan the next year. We are representing Alberta again at this year's tournament in Innisfail in June. The last one was played before COVID in 2019 in Fredericton and I was voted most sportsmanlike out of all the pool players there. I'm there for enjoyment. Everyone wants to win, but things like that mean the most."

- Logan Renaud

Faces of Bowness is a portrait series highlighting the great people of Bowness. We aim to publish weekly short–form interviews on our social media feeds, as well as longer interviews like this one in every edition of the Bowest'ner.

To nominate yourself or a friend for a feature, or to get involved in conducting interviews, email: communications@mybowness.com

Run Bowness 2023 Sponsored by Bloom Culture – Recap and Results

Run Bowness 2023 was a smashing success with over 330 runners, walkers, and rollers, plus new event additions such as pancakes from the Bowness Lions, live music by the Rocking Kings, and a beer garden! The day wouldn't have been possible without our community and volunteers — thank you! Head to mybowness.com/blog for a full event recap with acknowledgements and photos.

Whether your goal was to cross the finish line, set a personal best, or finish in the podium places — congratulations on your accomplishment!

Full results available at startlinetiming.com. All times below are gun times.

10K — Men's
1st: Austin Jones – 0:35:48
2nd: Mark Fewster – 0:37:29
3rd Kevin Masleis – 39:19

10K — Women's
1st: Kasia Lenz – 0:49:50
2nd: Alice Maitland-Bussoli – 0:51:35
3rd: Kierra Nash – 0:52:47

5K — Men's
1st: Zachary Hill – 0:22:48
2nd: 0:23:17*
3rd: Oliver Olivera – 0:23:18

*Name unavailable due to bib mixup. Know whose name belongs here? Email communications@mybowness.com

5K — Women's
1st: Breanne Everett – 0:20:25
2nd: Isabella Abbruzzese – 0:21:28
3rd: Deb Hall – 0:24:34

Kid's Mile
1st: Joshua Doran – 0:07:15
2nd: Hali Sroka – 0:07:19
3rd: Kian Williams - 0:07:25
Tied: Aleksander Lenz - 0:07:25

Hey Neighbour,

Have you heard of the Ripples Community Building Grant?

In a nutshell, we want to give you money to be part of building a vibrant and resilient neighbourhood. If you live in Bowness, Greenwood Village or Montgomery, and you have an idea that creates or enhances social connections or welcoming and inclusive community space, this is your opportunity to receive up to $1000 to flex those leadership skills.

Your neighbours have already used Ripples to fund everything from scavenger hunts and art classes to little free pantries or libraries and parent meetup groups — and this is just a small drop in the pool of Ripples ideas!

Even if you don't have a project quite figured out, I'm here to help talk it out or lend a hand with your application. You can read everything you need to know and apply online at mybowness.com/ripples - or stop by the BCA office for a paper copy (or just to chat!)

Remember - no idea is too small, and it's through ripples that we can create waves — so go ahead, make a splash!

Your Friend,
Tess Van Den Bosch
BCA Community Development Coordinator

You can reach me at tvandenbosch@mybowness.com or 403-288-8300
Visit mybowness.com/ripples to learn more about Ripples and apply.

BLOOM CULTURE

A BOWNESS GROWN FAMILY BUSINESS
BY TRACY WRUBLESKI, LADDIE TRITHARA AND LOGAN RENAUD

We had a conversation with Tracy Wrubleski, head of Marketing and Development for Bloom Culture, a Bowness small business and the sponsor of this year's Run Bowness.

Tell us about the story behind Bloom Culture and your new brand.
While many Bownesians are familiar with the Floraworx shop (located at 3131 68 St NW, near the new Superstore), some may not be aware that it was a sister company to Bedworx - an industry leader in fine gardening and design for 13 years. Floraworx started as an off season passion project of my daughter Kari's that blossomed into a local botanical boutique — largely thanks to our shop manager, Kendra.

When Kari approached me last summer to help her rebrand Floraworx, we eventually agreed that the best step forward was to merge both businesses into a single umbrella brand to better showcase our products, services, and expertise in bringing folks quality plants and florals.

Tell us about what's unique about Bloom Culture, and what services and products you offer.
Bloom Culture is about embracing natural elements and bringing beauty to spaces, hearts, and minds. We want to help folks create spaces that bring them pride and happiness - whether it's through elaborate garden beds, an abundance of indoor tropical plants, or a simple floral jar on your desk.

Our services run the gamut. We offer garden design and installation, interior plants, floral subscriptions, an in-studio "build your own bouquet" bar, along with a range of flora workshops. Our goal is to share our space and expertise as it relates to gardening, plants, and florals while joining you on your journey to inspirational spaces.

What made Bloom Culture want to sponsor Run Bowness?
We wanted to connect with the community and help bring people together in a healthy and fun manner. Having gone through the uncertainty of the pandemic, sponsoring last year's event (as Floraworx) was a way to give back, rejoin the community at large, celebrate our collective resilience, and cheer on our neighbours! We were thrilled to be able to sponsor this great event again this year and support our runners both young and old.

What's Bloom Culture's relationship to the community of Bowness?
Both Kari and Kendra are local residents, and devout supporters of Bowness small businesses.

Over the past few years, we've been a regular participant in community events. On September 9th, we'll be hosting Fall Fest to celebrate the talents of local artisans at an outdoor market while collecting snacks and funds for Brown Bagging for Calgary Kids. We hope to see you all there!

What's it like working with your daughter?
It wasn't until last summer that the stars finally aligned for Kari and me to combine talents and work together on a more structured basis. As a mom, I definitely felt honored to be invited in and contribute to a business that was built from the ground up, and I look forward to seeing what the team can accomplish together as we move into this next chapter. I have learned a lot from her over these past few months and hopefully she can say the same for me.

What else would you like the Bowness to know about Bloom Culture?
The support that we have received already from Bownesians has been astounding and we can't wait to welcome you to the newly renovated studio! In all of our offerings, we hope to inspire you. Life is too short to ignore the importance of feeling good about ourselves and the spaces we occupy!

THE BOWTANICAL GARDEN

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
BY BEVERLEY SHERIDAN

A robotic lawn mower complete with a navigation system – yikes! An advertisement has just popped up on one of my favourite gardening sites urging me to buy one of these modern day wonders for a mere $1500 and assuring me of all the time I will save for other more important things. (Binge watching Bridgerton on Netflix?) Actually, I should not be surprised as a visit to any of our local garden centres, or even the dollar store, offers several aisles of tools and a dizzying array of labour-saving devices for the Calgary gardener. Apparently, just a green thumb is no longer the only tool I need to garden successfully! Mowing, trimming, digging, pruning, planting, labeling, supporting, keeping out hungry critters – there's a tool for that.

We humans are an inventive bunch and gardening tools have been no exception. They have co-evolved with us as we moved from hunter gatherers to full time farmers and gardeners making us more efficient at putting food on the table and flowers in the parlor. Archeologists have uncovered numerous "all-in-one" tools from the Neolithic Period consisting of a sharp stone blade set in a handle of wood or bone. Great for digging, clipping and cutting! The wheelbarrow originated in China in the second century BC followed shortly by the rake. Romans used a pruning knife very similar to one I have in my garden tool kit — but unlikely with the plastic handle.

In England, the first publicly available list of necessary gardening tools appears to have been created by Alexander Neckham, Abbot of Cirencester in 1190. It includes suggestions for every well-equipped peasant's shed: broad bladed knife, spade, shovel, seed box, billhook for brambles, 2 baskets, wheelbarrow and a snare for wolves. The Abbot and I would have gotten along well as a look in my garage would confirm adherence to his list (well perhaps not the snare for wolves). It does, however, underscore the fact that once you have a design that works well, there is really no need to change it. I like simple, well-made tools that have been in use for decades, especially my push lawn mower. It does a great job, gives me a short workout, and needs no gasoline or power cord. It is unlikely that I will be placing an order for a robotic, GPS enabled one any time soon. The first lawn mowers entered the market in the early 1800s, replacing the use of a hand scythe or a flock of sheep. Gas powered mowers were in use in the early part of the 20th century but did not gain widespread use until the 1950s. Since then, these mowing machines are responsible for injuring around 20,000 Americans every year, including children run over by riding mowers or small tractors. I am sticking with my push mower!

Until the Industrial Revolution, farming and gardening tools were made by hand. They were often left to family members in a person's will as they were expensive to make and much valued. By the late 1800s this changed as a gardening boom took over much of Europe and North America, and machine manufactured tools like we use today started to appear in shops and in mail order catalogues. People had more to spend on their hobbies and more leisure time in which to indulge them. The inventors and marketers of the day took advantage of this new passion to grow things and introduced an unbelievable proliferation of "must have" gardening tools. People lightened their purses to purchase a cucumber straightener, a strawberry spade, umbrellas for dahlia blooms, an aphid brush, sheers for pruning gooseberries so one does not get scratched, and even turf-protecting shoes for the horses that were pulling those new mechanical lawn mowers.

As a new gardening season begins and one's enthusiasm is high, it is very easy to go overboard when purchasing garden tools. But sometimes, what is old can be new again. I recently attended an estate sale and one of the lots was a box of old garden tools. Wonderful metal garden tools with wooden handles worn smooth by someone else's hand! I curtailed the urge to buy, but a quick look online shows that I am not alone in participating in this eccentric alternative to modern day plastic, disposable, and poorly designed gardening tools. Many tools that were common decades ago are now considered highly collectable as well as being useful, and in an age of consuming less and reusing more, finding well used and loved tools at local flea markets and secondhand stores makes a lot of sense. I will be on the lookout this summer for a vintage tin watering can that will look wonderful on my deck when not in use. But first, time to cut the lawn!

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