

# RIDEAU ROXBORO

# Review

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Fall 2025



  
**RIDEAU  
ROXBORO**  
Community Association

Mission Bridge  
Rehabilitation

p. 3

Community Gardens  
A 25-Year History

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10th Sara  
Scout Hall:

A Century of Community

p. 11

# Rideau Roxboro Community Association

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## Rideau Roxboro Review

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# President's Message

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Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Rideau Roxboro Review! On behalf of your Community Association, we're delighted to share this first annual look back at a year filled with connection, collaboration, and community spirit.

As you turn the pages, we invite you to reflect on the moments that made this past year so memorable — from neighbourhood gatherings and local initiatives to the stories and milestones that remind us why Rideau Roxboro is such a special place to call home.

This publication also offers a glimpse into our community's rich heritage, featuring stories and photographs from years gone by that capture the charm and history of our beloved neighbourhood.

Behind the scenes, your Community Association board and volunteers dedicate countless hours to maintaining the high standards that define Rideau Roxboro — preserving its beauty, fostering connection, and ensuring that communication within our community remains open and meaningful. Their passion and commitment are the heart of our continued success.

To all who contribute their time, energy, and goodwill — thank you. It is your involvement that keeps our small but vibrant community thriving.

From all of us at the Rideau Roxboro Community Association, we wish you a warm and joyful holiday season and an inspiring year ahead.

With gratitude and community pride,

**Paul Storwick**  
President  
Rideau Roxboro Community Association

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*Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson*



Paul Storwick, President

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## Neighbour Day!

The residents of 3rd Street in Roxboro held their 2nd Annual 3rd Street Neighbour Day party! Originally planned for June, only to be rained out, the party planners had a backup date planned and the event went ahead on a beautiful day in September. Thanks to Brenda Gracie and Barb Ibbotson for hosting and organizing!

# Mission Bridge Rehabilitation

Evelyn Vandenhengel

We did it (!) - this long-anticipated project has been completed! This marks a significant new milestone for this storied bridge - a bit of history...

The first Mission Bridge was built in 1886 as a wooden structure. It was replaced in 1901 with a steel structure to add endurance and longevity to this important intersection. In 1912 the City approved design for a new concrete and four-arched bridge – it was Calgary's first and it continues to be the oldest standing concrete bridge in Alberta. Construction in 1915 was impacted by the floods that year and sadly a worker was lost. Major rehabilitation was later completed in 1987 to further extend the life of the bridge. We have now all experienced the most recent rehabilitation of this historical City connector – the Mission Bridge played a strong role in facilitating the development of Calgary and in more recent years, has been a busy thoroughfare connecting the downtown area to all areas of southern Calgary and beyond.

Thanks to all residents who endured 1.5 years of lane closures, detours, and congestion – and keeping all riders and pedestrians safe during the process. Hats off to the City of Calgary who had a large construction crew going most days, many of who became friendly faces as we traversed the bridge, marvelled by all the complexities in bringing these projects to the finish line.

The City of Calgary, Graham Construction and the RRCA sponsored a thank-you event on October 27th, 2025 at Sara Scout Hall to celebrate project completion. Cookies and food truck lunches were provided – thanks to all who were able to attend!

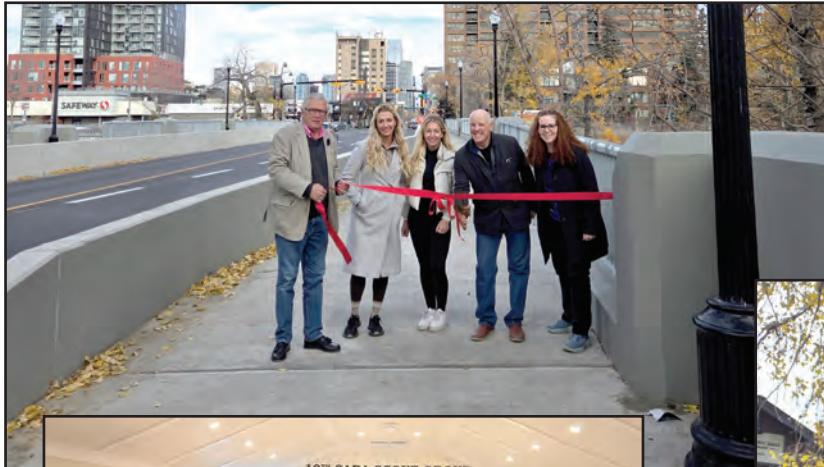




Photo Credits: Tracey J. Johnson

The Mission Bridge is supported by concrete pillars and arches, and until the 2024-2025 rehabilitation, was backfilled with dirt! Crews removed the dirt so they could pour new concrete on the arches to strengthen them before backfilling with fresh gravel. To ensure the concrete on the arches cured properly in the dead of winter, crews constructed a huge shelter of beams and tarps, and heated it 24/7 for weeks!

# Housing Development Update

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Tony Morris

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Many neighbours have been actively engaged in community property development issues in recent months.

## **Restrictive Covenants**

The majority of Rideau Roxboro homeowners have expressed real concern with City Council's decision to increase housing density throughout Calgary via blanket up-zoning. In Rideau Roxboro, this means that without any public input, the base building allowed for a 50-foot residential lot in our community increased to up to eight units! This has led to consideration for alternative approaches to managing property development within our community, principally through the use of Restrictive Covenants, which are executed by landowners and registered on title. The new Council (recently sworn in) may modify its approach to zoning, but there is still uncertainty. To continue to have a say in the management of the density and character of our community's housing stock, Restrictive Covenants continue to be a viable option.

"Project Blue Dot" has been the months' long project to expand the number of registered Restrictive Covenants throughout our community, particularly in Rideau. However, gaps remain, leaving streets vulnerable to unwanted build-forms. That Project is ongoing.

"Project Defence" has now seen the incorporation of the non-profit Rideau-Roxboro Community Defence Fund Society (Society) to build and manage a litigation defence fund to deploy to enforce Restrictive Covenants should a proposed development offend its terms. This is a critical support to the utility of restrictive covenants (and the first of its kind in the City, we believe). The membership base of those who could potentially use these funds is now expanding, and a donation drive is underway. Learn more about the Society see the Society's full article on page 22 of this newsletter.

## **Empty River Lots**

Very importantly, the Alberta Government has confirmed that it intends to sell the riverside lots left empty following the 2013 flood to buyers who are obliged to build single detached dwelling building stock, as was there previously. This is a very significant and welcomed outcome for the community, and follows years-long advocacy by many neighbours. We will monitor the Government's next steps in the coming months.

## **Future Monitoring**

RRCA will continue to monitor development applications that are filed from time to time, and mobilize appropriate inputs and responses.

RRCA will keep a close eye on new development applications as they are submitted, and will gather the necessary information and feedback to respond accordingly.

# A Note from Your Social Convenor

Rhiannon Petaku

One of the things I love most about living in Rideau Roxboro is how our community comes together to celebrate. This past year has been such a wonderful reminder of that.

Our Summer Party was a little different this year. Rain forced us to cancel the June 21st date, but that didn't stop us! Instead, we turned it into a Summer Wrap-Up Party on September 6—and what a day it was. The turnout was incredible, with so many kids and adults filling the park. We had relay races with prizes, raffles full of goodies donated by our amazing local businesses, a dunk tank that was a huge hit, and so much more. From the petting zoo and bouncy castles to circus performers, face painters, cotton candy, and even a bubble machine—the laughter and joy were contagious. Add in music, a potluck BBQ, and a pizza truck, and the day felt like pure celebration.

What made it extra special was how many neighbors pitched in—whether volunteering, bringing food, or simply showing up to enjoy the fun. These are the moments that make our neighborhood feel like family.

And we're not done yet! Each year, our Christmas in the Community event is a tradition many of us look forward to. On Christmas Eve from 1–4 pm, we'll gather again to share the holiday spirit with ice skating, s'mores, caroling, and plenty of Christmas baking donated and brought by neighbors. We'll be warmed up by mulled wine, Santa Claus always makes an appearance, and the horse-drawn sleigh ride through the neighborhood makes the afternoon feel truly magical.

We've even had playful events like a community Nerf Gun Fight—first kids vs. kids, then kids vs. parents—which left us all laughing and connecting in such a fun, lighthearted way.

These gatherings aren't just about entertainment—they're about strengthening the bonds that make Rideau-Roxboro such a special place to call home. I'm so grateful to be part of a community that shows up, celebrates together, and makes every event memorable.

Here's to many more! And don't forget to mark your calendars—we can't wait to see you all on Christmas Eve from 1–4 pm for our next celebration.



Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson

# Who is Marion Gibson?

Tracey J. Johnson

## Marion Gibson Hall

We all know Marion Gibson Hall - the headquarters for the community association, surrounded by nature, tennis and basketball courts, an ice rink in the winter, a children's playground, and a dog park. But who is this building named after? We know she must have contributed in some substantial way to the community, possibly enabling the building of the hall itself, but who was she? It's my "job" as the History and Heritage Director on the Board of RRCA to preserve our history, or in this case, try to track it down before it's lost forever. There is no plaque about her at the hall bearing her name, so all I have to work with is a name and my pertinacity (I had to look up this 50-cent word, but it fits perfectly!). I'm sure there are other people in the neighbourhood who will be able to fill some gaps (and hopefully you will reach out to me to do so), but so far, this is all that I've been able to track down.

## The Basics

Marion Gibson was born around 1918 and was probably a Central United Church member as a girl. The 1977 telephone directory lists her address as 3018 5th Street SW, and as a young girl she may have lived at 3028 3rd St SW, until the mid-1930s. She never married.

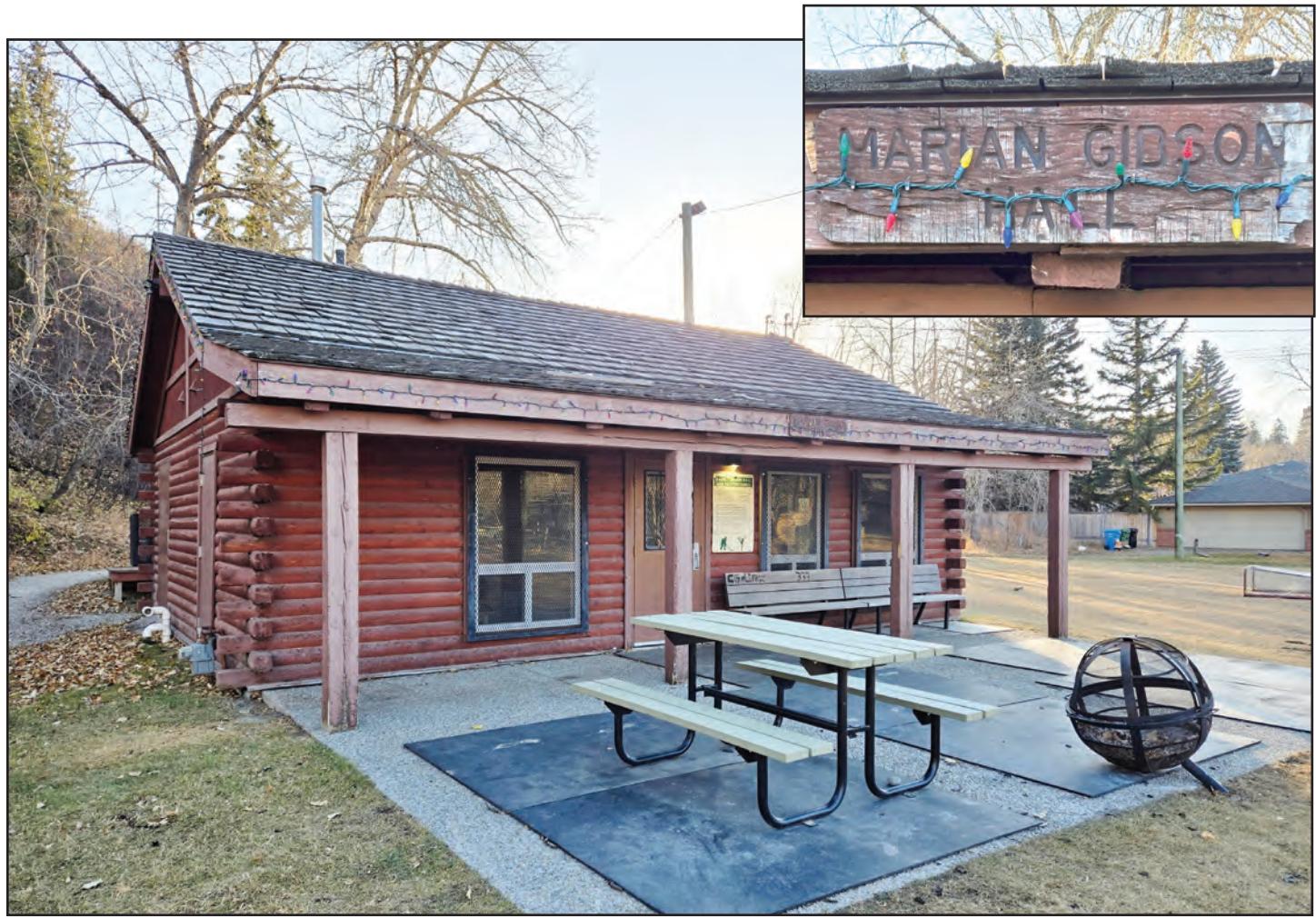


Photo Credits: Tracey J. Johnson

## Guides and Scouts

Though Marion had no children of her own, she spent her life dedicated to them, volunteering for decades with the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts movements. As early as the mid-1930s she was a volunteer Guider for the Second (Rideau) Guides Group (Second Company Girl Guides). She was also a Cub Scout Leader and in the 1950s she was active in the “Crippled Children’s Wolf Cub Pack”, an outlet for boys staying at the “Crippled Children’s Hospital” (a real hospital name in Calgary, which was a sign of the times). A pioneer in inclusion, Marion helped organize weekly pack meetings held for the boys in the hospital to give each one an interest and a goal. The youngsters were there for a variety of reasons, but they were all full of “pep” and an outlet for some of this energy was their Wolf Cub Meetings. They earned badges and wore uniforms (as much as they were able to). Games were specifically chosen so that every boy could take part – many from a bed or wheelchair - often invented by the Cubmasters. Marion was there every week making this possible for the children.

## Whitburn’s Greenhouses

Marion grew up with Whitburn children (Bill (born around 1920), Fred and Wilf (twins born around 1923), and Edith (born around 1924)), as did many others in the Rideau Roxboro community. Mr. William Frederick Whitburn (who had entered the florist business in 1917, became proprietor in 1923, and died in 1952) operated Whitburn Florist at 715 Rideau Road, a block-long florist operation between Rideau Road SW, 30th Avenue, and 5A Street (located there until 1976). Mr. Whitburn once caught Marion, in her own words, “snitching flowers from the garbage”. Instead of the lecture she expected, Mr. Whitburn asked why and she explained it was for her mother. From that time on Marion could always buy flowers for a nickel - “a bargain even in those days.”

## Monkey

As an adult, Marion ended up working at Whitburn’s Greenhouses in Rideau Park. She

owned a monkey (who wore diapers) and would ride around Whitburn’s on her shoulder. She used to give the local children peanuts to feed the monkey, recalls Rhondda Siebens and Alison Lester. They remember that she was very tomboyish, “always wearing her signature denim overalls” and sporting short hair!

## Persuasiveness

Clarice Siebens remembers Marion volunteering for everything, and that Marion had the great skill of getting other people to help - like when a former Rideau Roxboro member who had hosted the Annual Ladies Tea moved and Marion told Clarice “you have a big yard so you’ll hold the Ladies Tea from now on” which Clarice did for many years ... you didn’t say no to Marion!

## Legacy

Her legacy remains in Rideau Roxboro through her eponymous community hall, a tangible embodiment of her dedication to this community. We’re trying to gather more information about Marion Gibson. If you have any memories or pictures of her, or know specifically why the hall was named after her, please contact Tracey Johnson at [history@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:history@rideauroxboro.com).

## Interested in Community History?

RRCA’s History and Heritage Director, Tracey J. Johnson, will lead another Rideau Roxboro Historical Walking Tour as part of the Jane’s Walk Celebration the first weekend in May 2026.



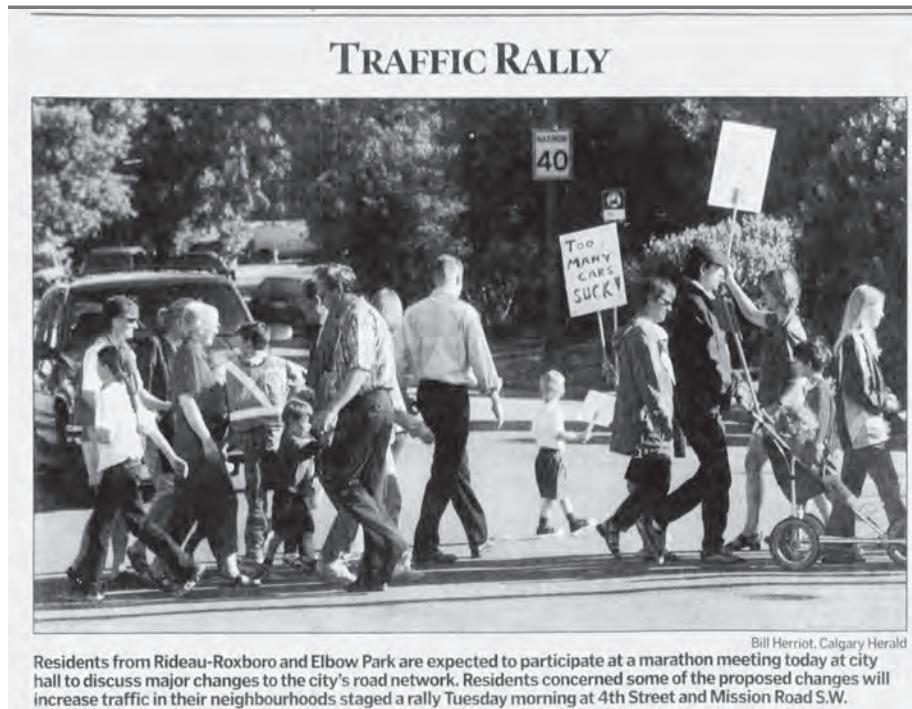
Photo Credit: Brian Mills

# Rideau Roxboro Community Gardens: A 25-year history

Evelyn Vandenhengel

4th Street SW has a long history of lively conversations between City Hall and Rideau Roxboro residents, on traffic in and out of the downtown area. Over the years there has been sporadic thrusts from City Hall to increase this corridor to higher levels of traffic. One such scenario was brewing in the early 2000s. Residents banded together to discourage this initiative and a real live “protest” of over 100 people, actually occurred at the intersection of 4th Street and 30th Avenue one morning in June, 2000. It lasted about an hour - but the citizens made their point! Here is a wonderful photo of protest rally depicting the commitment of our residents and an article from the Herald which brings the challenges of the day to life!

The community initiated a Traffic Calming project which was chaired by Steve Allan. The initiative was intended to slow traffic down through the community and concurrently to raise awareness of its residential nature. The City became supportive and together a plan was created which included 1) installation of traffic bulbs along 4th Street to slow things down and 2) the installation of unique street lights from 30th Avenue extending across the bridge, to accentuate a community feel. Bill Milne, a wonderful architectural visionary (and from our neighbourhood!) worked with the City to create the design for the traffic bulbs which gave rise to the gardens. The project also included installation of the centre island up Mission Road and assurances from the City that this road would remain a community collector only. Carol Ryder and Madeleine King (City Alderman and our Ward 8 representative) took on the job of fundraising for the project. The City did contribute to this initiative but our residents provided the lions share of the funding through donations and lots of volunteer hours. (You will note today the plaques on the street lamps which honour those families who donated \$5,000 to this project). Carol also selected appropriate heritage plants to reflect the history of our neighbourhood and it is within the traffic bulbs that these plants were installed to become our “boulevard gardens”. Many, many residents pitched in



Residents from Rideau-Roxboro and Elbow Park are expected to participate at a marathon meeting today at city hall to discuss major changes to the city's road network. Residents concerned some of the proposed changes will increase traffic in their neighbourhoods staged a rally Tuesday morning at 4th Street and Mission Road S.W.

Calgary Herald

to plant these gardens (adults and kids alike!) reflecting our strong neighbourhood spirit.

At project completion, a pedestal was installed in the garden at 4th Street and 30th Avenue (NW corner). A plaque was to be inserted into the pedestal to honour all of the community donors who brought this project to completion. A time capsule was even buried under the pedestal and contained small objects reflecting the current times. The plaque however was never completed at that time.

Since these early days, the community has met its obligation with the City to maintain the 4th Street Gardens. They have flourished and suffered at the hands of Mother Nature but have remained

for the most part, hardy and strong. They are a reflection of the dedication of so many community residents who fought hard and donated generously to both calm the traffic and beautify the neighbourhood - and hence deserve to be treated as a resource for the community. There have been many volunteers over the years who have contributed their time and effort to maintain the gardens - our thanks to each and every one of them. Today the gardens continue to be managed by a volunteer group (but of course everyone is welcome to pitch in - especially on bigger landscape projects)! The gardens initially featured lots of our native Alberta Rose, native grasses and lilacs. Residents have been very generous in donating plants that have overgrown their own yards - there is always room for them in our gardens! Our plant variety is increasing each year and now includes Russian olive bushes, Wayfaring bushes, boxwoods, lilies, spirea, hostas, salvia, sedum and even rhubarb!

Back to the pedestal....two years ago the current garden committee had a serious look at the history behind this pedestal and decided to create the plaque that never quite made it in 2000. The City split the cost with us - a plaque was created and installed - it now honours the spirit of volunteerism and all of the donors/volunteers who helped to create the traffic-calming devices that became our beautiful gardens. In addition, an artist from our community, Ida Heron volunteered countless hours to create and hand paint colour graphics on the pedestal which reflect unique features of our neighbourhood - our historic school, the Elbow River, our amazing ice rink and the beautiful canopy of trees we enjoy every day. We now enjoy a beautiful piece of artwork as we walk along 4th Street. New residents of the community have also recently donated a nostalgic

# Aldermen slam brakes on inner city traffic plan

MICHAEL LAU  
CALGARY HERALD

**I**t took rallies and protests, but residents won their battle Wednesday to convince aldermen to nix plans to increase traffic on some inner city streets.

The city's transportation, transit and parking committee bowed to public pressure, rejecting re-classifications of some inner city streets.

Parts of Mission Road and Sifton Boulevard were designated as supporting roads in a strategy designed to better manage traffic in the city's core. The committee agreed to downgrade the roads to minor collectors.

Minor residential collectors handle 1,000 to 7,500 vehicles per day, compared with 5,000 to 15,000 vehicles for residential supporting roads. The speed limit for supporting roads is 40 to 50 kilometres per hour and 40 km/h for a collector road.

"It reflects more the residential character and the traffic-calming measures that need to be applied in order to assist those communities in dealing with an overflow of traffic," said Ward 11 Ald. Barry Erskine.

Many of the 20 groups and citizens at the meeting had objected to the planned reclassification of streets.

Steve Allan, of the Rideau Roxboro Community Association, opposed the redesignation of 4th Street-Mission Road.

"We don't want a label that will open the door to a growth in traffic volumes," said Allan, chairman of the association's traffic committee.

"Rather, we want to have the flexibility to implement measures to limit and reduce traffic volumes and we are concerned that the supporting road designation will remove that flexibility."

Bernie McCaffrey, an Elbow Park resident, said he's against re-classifications for Sifton Boulevard to supporting road and Elbow Drive to secondary road.

"Does it make sense to argue that because the road is not in full compliance with standards under the existing classification that you can elevate that road to a higher level in the hierarchy with even more serious deviations without paying any attention to the quality of its design and maintenance?" said McCaffrey.

He questioned the validity of the classification system in the city strategy that identifies roads as local, minor collector, supporting road, secondary route and major street.

The Transportation Association of Canada uses the designations freeway

arterial, collector and local road, said McCaffrey.

"Our community of Elbow Park is requesting that (the committee) not endorse the new and unproven terminology used to describe classifications not recognized by the TAC."

Other recommendations the committee will present to council are:

- Streetscape, planning and design for 4th Street N.W., 16th Avenue N.W. and McKnight Boulevard N.W. — build in 2001
- Memorial Drive S.W. and 14th Street S.W. connection — community consultation and design in 2001 and build in 2002
- Streetscape design for Mission Road — build in 2000
- Conversion of 11th and 12th avenues back to two-way streets — complete transportation system management study in 2001
- Investigate redesign of 14th Street and 10th Avenue S.W. for through movement — complete east/west study in 2000
- Sifton Boulevard S.W. — complete master plan in 2000 and build Phase 1 in 2001 (includes intersection modifications at Elbow Drive)
- Elbow Drive — develop streetscape from 4th Street S.W. to 34th Avenue S.W.

Calgary Herald

concrete bench which really rounds out this corner garden - looks like a natural meeting place for friends and neighbours!

Our gardens will be enjoyed by the neighbourhood for many years to come - we always need a continuing supply of volunteers so if your 'green thumb' is calling - please do get it touch at [gardens@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:gardens@rideauroxboro.com).



Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson  
The commemorative plaque on 4th Street and 30th Avenue.

# The Calgary 10th Sara Scout Hall: A Century of Community in Rideau

Cody Bezaire, Beaver Section Leader

The Calgary 10th Scout Troop has a long and proud history in Calgary and the neighbourhood of Rideau. Established in 1914, the group originally met in a series of temporary quarters and at the Elbow View Hotel (formerly the Albion Hotel) at 338 26th Avenue SW in Mission. In the summer of 1925, a fire gutted the hotel, forcing the group to find a new home.

By that time, the Calgary 10th was under the leadership of F. Leslie Sara, a prominent local Scouter who was also well known as a naturalist and for his work with the CBC. Under his leadership, the 10th Calgary Scouts built their own hall on a donated piece of land — the pie-shaped lot at 609 Rideau Road, where the hall stands today.



Built by local businesses and volunteers who donated materials and labour, the Calgary 10th Scout Hall officially opened in 1927 and was one of the first purpose-built Scout halls in Calgary and remains the oldest one still standing. In 1948, the Calgary 10th Scout Group and hall were officially renamed the Sara Scout Hall in honour of their former leader, who had passed away.

Over the years, the hall and the Sara Scout Group have faced their share of challenges. In 1948, a fire caused significant damage after being set in a non-functioning fireplace by a visiting group of Girl Guides. The 2013 flood also severely damaged the hall, but thanks to the efforts of the community, local businesses, and volunteers, a brand-new structure was built. More recently, in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts programs to pause when in-person meetings were no longer possible.

## The Calgary 10th Sara Scout Hall: Today

Today, the Sara 10th is rebuilding and currently hosts an energetic group of Beavers (ages 5–8). You may see them around the community on adventures, enjoying campfires and camps at the hall, or collecting bottles during fundraising drives.

The Sara Scout Group is now looking to grow its ranks by reintroducing Cub and eventually Scout programs at the hall. If you're interested in signing up your child or signing up to become a volunteer, please visit the Scouts Canada website to learn more. Scouts is a volunteer-led organization, and it's the dedication of our leaders that makes it all possible.

Finally, we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community of Rideau for being such great neighbours and for your support over so many years.



Edit Asset: [ca. 1930s], (CU192590) by unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.

Photograph taken at the end of 26th Avenue, about 1st Street SW. Roxboro Glen in background. Copy of PA-993-71. L-R: Pat Tyrell; Jack Christie; Jack Peach; Murray Maclean; Jack Clamp; F. Leslie Sara. 10th Calgary Troop



Photo Credit: 10th Sara Scout Troop

10th Sara Scout Hall before (top) and after the 2013 floods, when the hall was substantially rebuilt.



Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson  
After being rebuilt in 2014, the 10th Sara Scout Hall is once again home to colony of eager Beavers, seen here carving pumpkins for Halloween 2025.

# Rideau Roxboro Community Crimewatch

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Rideau Roxboro Community Crimewatch is a volunteer organization of over 260 community members interested in staying connected and being made aware of current suspicious/criminal activity within our area. Residents report crime activity as it happens and information is shared by email to those who have subscribed. All community residents are encouraged to share information to support prevention and awareness.

To subscribe or to report any suspicious activity, email [crimewatch@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:crimewatch@rideauroxboro.com)

## Crimewatch Contacts

Police: Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: 403-266-1234

Report crime: [calgarycrimestoppers.org](http://calgarycrimestoppers.org)  
1-800-222-8477  
or text: TIPS to 274637

Bylaw: 311 for Bylaw infractions,  
encampments, noise complaints,  
graffiti, etc.

Community and Social Services: 211  
(including Alpha House HELP Team)

# Rideau Roxboro Green Reset

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James Maxim

Nearly four years ago, at the request of the Association President, I prepared an article entitled “Rideau Roxboro Green Reset: Responding to Calgary’s Climate Emergency.”

In that piece, I wrote about the state of the Elbow River, the importance of community safety and stewardship, and the need for coordinated action to address areas of environmental concern along the river corridor. I called for an Action Plan to ensure long-term neighbourhood sustainability.

Our community’s history stretches back more than 125 years, and with the restoration of the Mission Bridge, we look forward to building on that legacy for the next generation. The bridge and river are central to our sense of place — to both our quality of life and our enduring community presence.

## Looking Ahead

As stated in that earlier article, representation was made to the federal government for funding to support environmental restoration and protection efforts along the Elbow River, Elbow Island, and the Mission Road Natural Area. These initiatives were aimed at enhancing the quality of life along the river through sustainability, flood resilience, and ecological protection for continued public enjoyment.

Although our initial funding application was not approved, significant progress has been made over the past two years through local improvement projects and ongoing collaboration with the City and community volunteers.

## Renewed Commitment

On October 27, 2025, as we mark the restoration of the Mission Bridge, the Rideau Roxboro Community Association reaffirms its commitment to working with the City of Calgary — both elected and non-elected officials — to address outstanding environmental priorities.

Our intention is to ensure that the beauty of the Elbow River and the health of the ecosystems that define our community are preserved for future generations. Together, we will continue sustainable planning and stewardship across Rideau Roxboro and surrounding neighbourhoods.

# Traffic Update

Tom Lester



*Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson*

Since the last Annual General Meeting in October 2024, traffic patterns within the community have continued to present challenges, including speeding and congestion near the school. There have been no major changes or new measures implemented to date. Recent developments—particularly the West Elbow Local Area Plan (WELAP)—have also introduced potential considerations for future traffic volumes and flow through the area.

## Summary of the Past Year

The community received responses from the Calgary Police Service (CPS) regarding two Traffic Service Requests for Rideau Road and 30th Avenue. CPS analysis indicated that speeding did not exceed thresholds typically considered significant, with vehicles exceeding the speed limit representing less than 15 percent of total traffic. Due to provincial policy changes limiting the use of photo radar, future speed-monitoring can only occur at previously approved locations. In addition, the CPS Residential Traffic Safety Unit has undergone restructuring, and our long-time contact, Constable Leimer, transitioned from the role in February 2025.

The Mission Bridge rehabilitation project temporarily closed vehicular traffic for approximately six months beginning in November 2024. Early signage directing motorists to detours was found to be insufficient, resulting in increased traffic through community streets. Larger and clearer signage was subsequently installed,

improving traffic conditions. The bridge is now open.

During the past year, the City of Calgary assumed administrative control over residential parking restrictions, which were previously managed with greater resident input. As a result, time-limited parking zones (such as two-hour limits) are now more narrowly applied.

## West Elbow Local Area Plan (WELAP) Implications

Under the WELAP, 4th Street S.W. has been reclassified as a minor collector roadway—similar to Sifton Boulevard, 8th Street S.W. (Mount Royal), Premier Way, and Council Way—and also identified as both a neighbourhood connector and community corridor. These designations support higher-density residential and commercial development.

According to current planning materials, 4th Street is also identified for potential inclusion in the forthcoming Calgary Plan as part of the city-wide “goods movement corridors,” which accommodate emergency services, service vehicles, and goods transportation.

Community members have expressed concern and interest in monitoring how these designations will influence future land use, development patterns, and the balance between residential and commercial activity along 4th Street that would essentially divide our community.

# Growing Up in

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## Memories of Roxboro: 1920s

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Curated by Tracey J. Johnson

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As a young girl in the 1920s, I grew up in Roxboro and I loved it. I loved the old Mission Bridge with its elegant pedestal lamps and columnar concrete hand rails - which have been replaced. Swallows nested under the bridge. A stairway led to a nature island park below where we gathered lilies-of-the-valley, bluebells, daisies, buffalo-beans and crocuses. At the river's edge we played with minnows, frogs and pollywogs. We climbed the hills to the south and played tennis at the Roxboro tennis court. In winter, before the Glenmore Dam was built, we skated for miles up and down the Elbow River. The city would clear the snow above the bridge at Freddy Lowes, and people would come from all parts of the city to skate there. How lucky I was to have spent my childhood in Roxboro.

Words of Virginia Grainge in a Letter to the Editor, the Calgary Herald,  
Nov 13, 1976



*Credit: Edit Asset: 1921, (CU182922) by unknown. Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.*

Roxboro in 1921, as seen from Park Hill. Mission Road is in the foreground, with 30th Avenue and 3rd Street showing how few houses were built. 26th Avenue across the river was still mostly houses, with industrial areas in the Mission area.

# Rideau Roxboro

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## Memories of Rideau: 1940s

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Bryan Douey

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The late '40s and early '50s were booming times in Calgary, with the population doubling between 1946 and 1956, from 100,000 to 200,000. Rideau Roxboro was an established community by this time, but not every lot had been built on. "One of the biggest differences from back then is the houses," says long-time Rideau Roxboro resident Bill Clapham. "There weren't as many, and there weren't any of these big houses." The entire city was much smaller then as well, though it didn't seem so to Clapham. "It was a good hour-long bike ride to get to Burt's Store on 50th Avenue. There wasn't much in the city beyond there. Just fields." Burt's General Store was a fixture in Calgary at the corner of 50th Avenue and Elbow Drive for more than 60 years, finally demolished in 2013 to make way for the current high-rise condominium.

Clapham was born in Holy Cross Hospital in 1936, and spent his first few years in Calgary's North side, before moving to Rideau Park in Grade 1, his family settling at 3039 4th Street SW, a home that's still standing today! In 1969, as an adult, Clapham and his late-wife Sheila moved into the Roxboro house he remains in today. "We paid \$26,000 for it!"

Clapham attended Rideau Park School for grades one through nine, before moving on to Crescent Heights High School, all the way on the other side of downtown. "Crescent Heights was the school for academics," explained Clapham. "Western was closer, but it was the school for trades back then." To get to the distant school in his first year, Clapham took the streetcar downtown. Calgary's streetcars ran from 1909 until 1950, Clapham's first year at high school, including the 4th Street line, which ran from Mission Bridge to 12th Avenue. "I remember we'd stop where the old Colonel Belcher Hospital used to be," continued Clapham. The Colonel Belcher Hospital was a veteran's hospital that became a long-term care facility for veterans, before moving to its present location on Bowness Road. The old building was torn down in the 2000s, and the Sheldon M. Chumir Centre now sits on the site.

Clapham, along with most of the other neighbourhood boys were Cub Scouts with the 10th Sara Scout Troop. Every year the troop would build a mini-chuckwagon on runners meant for moving on ice, and compete in races against other troops in the old Victoria Arena. The arena, built in the Beltline for the army before World War 1, and originally named Horseshoe arena, was taken over by the City in 1918, and renamed Victoria Arena. It was the home of the Calgary Vics hockey club, followed by the Calgary Stampeders hockey club, and was the City's main arena until the Stampede Corral opened in 1950. "It was the first time most of us had skated on a smooth ice surface," says Clapham. "We were used to skating on the rough ice rink behind the Navy Cadets building at the end of Rideau Road." That Navy Cadets building became the studios for CHCT, Calgary's first local television station, in 1955, where it remained until 1981. "The rink was in that open space right where the pathway begins now. We would sometimes have a small rink right next to the Scout Hall, too." Clapham and his friends avoided skating on the Elbow River back then. "You could, and some people did," continued Clapham, "But we didn't trust the ice thickness."

Life in the community was much different in the late '40s. "There was no TV back then," says Clapham. "All the kids were always running around the neighbourhood, screaming and playing football. The Stampeders won the Grey Cup in '48, so everyone played football." Clapham and his friends would also play at Lindsay's Folly, which had much more structure remaining up until 1955. "We called it Lindsay's Castle," says Clapham. "We would spend a lot of time climbing around it."

Clapham is one of the longest-residing individuals of Rideau Roxboro, and served as RRCA President in the 1970s, where he left his mark by partnering with the City in creating the first community ice rinks next to Marion Gibson Hall, a tradition RRCA continues each Winter.

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Rhiannon Petaku

One of the reasons our community events are so successful is because of the generosity of our local sponsors. Their contributions—whether through financial support, prize donations, or in-kind services—help us bring our ideas to life and create unforgettable experiences for our neighbors.

At our most recent event, we were blown away by the level of support. From raffle prizes to fun activities for the kids, our sponsors made it all possible. Their generosity ensures that events like our Summer Party, Christmas in the Community, and other neighborhood gatherings continue to grow and thrive.

We encourage you to take a moment to look through the sponsor board below and remember these businesses and families when you're shopping, dining, or looking for services. Supporting them is one way we can give back and show our gratitude.

To all of our sponsors—thank you for investing in our community spirit and making Rideau-Roxboro such a wonderful place to live.



**THANK YOU SPONSORS**

**GOLD**

MAXgreen  
City of Calgary  
Ben Knopp Real Estate  
GreatWest Kenworth  
Storwick Family

**BRONZE**

Aida's Bistro  
JRAD Skin  
Purple Perk  
Anejo  
Marlow Floral Works  
La Boulangerie Bakery Cafe

**SILVER**

Bill Tuer  
Mission Wine & Liquor Merchants  
Butter Beauty Parlour  
Two Giraffes Footwear  
Bronze Baxx Tanning  
Frito Lay  
Mercato  
Calgary Co-op  
Sunterra  
Blowers & Grafton  
Shoppers Drug Mart  
The Unicorn  
Earls  
Safeway Liquor Mission  
Mission Safeway

# The Heart of Our Community Volunteering!

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Rhiannon Petaku

One of the most beautiful things about Rideau-Roxboro is the way neighbors step forward to give their time, energy, and talents to make this such a wonderful place to live. Volunteering is truly the heart of our community. Whether it's bartending at a party, setting up tables, donating food, or signing up through our SignUpGenius links, our events simply wouldn't happen without the generous help of volunteers. Every raffle, dunk tank, BBQ, and children's game runs more smoothly thanks to those who put up their hand and say, "I'll help."

Beyond our events, volunteers make an enormous impact in so many ways. Our rink is cared for and maintained by Carl, who gives his time year after year so families can enjoy skating each winter. The grounds, hall maintenance, and gardens are all lovingly tended by neighbors who take pride in our shared spaces. Even our community board, which guides and supports all of these efforts, is made up entirely of volunteers who dedicate their time and passion.

We also rely on volunteers for our casino fundraisers, which bring in essential funds that allow us to keep running programs and hosting events. These behind-the-scenes efforts may not always be visible, but they are absolutely vital. Volunteering isn't just about "getting the job done." It builds connection and community spirit. Even simply showing up at an event with a smile and a friendly hello helps strengthen the bonds that make Rideau-Roxboro such a special place to live.

So, to those who have given their time—thank you. And to anyone who has ever thought about lending a hand, please know that every little bit counts. Together, we can keep building a neighborhood full of warmth, connection, and pride.

Keep an eye out for our next SignUpGenius link in the newsletter and on our community website, or feel free to reach out anytime if you'd like to get involved. We'd love to have you join in!

## One Casino Shift = Thousands of Bake Sales + Countless of Bottle Drives

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Michelle Dudar

Mark your calendars! On January 15 and 16, 2026, the Rideau Roxboro Community Association will once again be volunteering at the Elbow River Casino—and we'd love for you to join us.

No experience? No problem. There are a variety of easy, well-supported roles to choose from, and none are intimidating. All you need to bring is a few hours of your time and a willingness to help. It's a great opportunity to meet neighbors, have fun and support the community.

Why is this so important? Since 2019, our casino volunteer shifts have brought in nearly \$300,000 to support our neighbourhood. These funds go directly back into the community—helping us cover facility costs, purchase equipment and supplies, and create programs that make Rideau Roxboro such a vibrant place to live. Our community has been recognized for our ability to fill all casino positions. Let's keep that tradition in January!

Contact Michelle at [casino@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:casino@rideauroxboro.com) or go to the RRSC website to get the sign up link!

# Message from Rideau Park School

Andrea Riquelme, Principal

Hello Rideau Park and Roxboro neighbours!

Rideau Park School is very proud to represent the Calgary Board of Education within our vibrant and historic community. This year, we celebrate our 95th anniversary of providing public education in this unique area of Calgary. We love to hear from current families that have parents or grandparents who are Rideau Park School alumni!

As many of you are aware, we offer programming from Kindergarten through to grade 9, for approximately 440 students. Our school offers a separate music (K-6) and band (7-9) program, physical education (K-9), and an array of options for students in grades 7-9, including French as a second language.

In addition to our regular classroom spaces, music room and large gym, we also offer a Construction lab, Foods classroom as well as an intimate Learning Commons. Teachers in Junior High also offer their time as coaches for a range of athletics pursuits such as cross-country running, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

We feel fortunate to offer our student opportunities to extend their learning outside of the classroom. Our beautiful grounds and surrounding natural areas offer students and teachers flexibility to engage in place and land-based learning practices.



We look forward to welcoming new students to Rideau Park with registration available across most grades currently. For families considering entering kindergarten or grade 1, we are planning to offer a K-1 Open House for interested families on January 15 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

We invite you to learn more about our school by viewing our website at <https://rideaupark.cbe.ab.ca/>, as well as through our presence on Instagram: @cbe.rideaupark. We look forward to getting to know you and welcoming you to Rideau Park School!

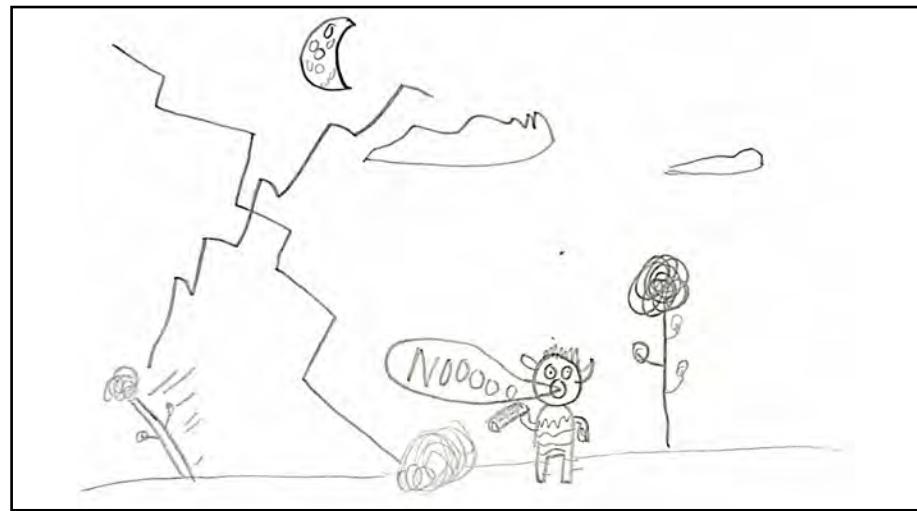
# Rideau Roxboro Legends

Rideau Roxboro's young writer, Henry Petkau, shares a Halloween legend about one very special neighbourhood rock.

On Halloween night in 1950  
A kid was trick or treating  
through Rideau Roxboro. He got so  
much candy that his bag grew  
bigger and bigger. He had to roll it  
down the street!

A flash of lightning turned his  
mountain of candy into a  
giant stone. The rock is still there  
on Rideau Road and 5<sup>th</sup> street.  
Legend says you can hear the  
crinkling of candy wrappers  
and smell candy from it.

by Henry Petkau.



Drawing by Henry Petkau

## Who Has Seen the Wind?

Renowned Canadian author, W.O. Mitchell lived on Roxboro Glen Road for 30 years, from 1968 to 1998, and was a fixture of the Rideau Roxboro community. Clarice Siebens was his longtime neighbour.

### A Private Performance from W.O. Mitchell

There are many stories I could tell you about our wonderful neighbour, W.O. Mitchell. One of my favourite stories involves my parents, of whom W.O. was very fond. He liked to come over when they were in town.

W.O. (I have no idea what his real name was, everyone just called him W.O.) was telling his stories in a one person show at Theatre Calgary.

I decided to take my whole family to the show but my dad said, "I'm deaf. I wouldn't hear what he's saying, so I'll just stay home." So the rest of us went to hear the stories. Afterward we told my dad about what fun it had been and how much we enjoyed it. He said, "I feel bad that I didn't go because I probably would have enjoyed just seeing him perform."

A couple of days later I ran into W.O. on the sidewalk and told him, "My dad's feeling very sorry that he missed your night of stories." He replied, "What's your dad doing right now?" I said, "I think he's inside having a cup of coffee."

W.O. said, "Well, let's go in. I want to talk to your dad." Then he asked me, "Which stories did you enjoy most?"

He stayed for well over an hour, telling his stories right there at the kitchen table. He gave my dad almost a full private performance. It was wonderful.

Clarice Siebens



Photo Credit: Rhiannon Petkau

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# RIDEAU ROXBORO LADIES LUNCHEON

Come join in the fun, food & friendship with your  
community neighbours & friends

Cocktail style food and beverages

\$58.00 per person

*Friday, December 12, 2025 / 11:30am to 2:00pm*

Calgary Golf & Country Club

RSVP SANDY MCBEAN

[sandy.mcbean@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.mcbean@gmail.com)

Donations for the  
Food Bank would be  
greatly appreciated



# Rideau Roxboro Community Defence Fund Society

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The City of Calgary continues to pursue policies that increase inner-city housing density, including the recent citywide “up-zoning” that allows up to four units—and four secondary suites—on any 50’ lot without community input. While these changes move ahead, our neighbourhood’s long-term protection depends on the steps we take together.

Our community strategy has two parts:

- Restrictive Covenants (RCs) registered between neighbours to help guide future development (“Project Bluedot”).
- A not-for-profit Society that builds a legal defence fund to help support members if their RCs are challenged (“Project Defence”).

Roxboro has broad coverage of historic RCs, and Rideau’s coverage continues to grow through new registrations.

We are now launching the Society’s membership drive, open to any household with a registered RC. Membership offers peace of mind by allowing members to request financial support from the Society should they need to uphold their RC. Those who registered new RCs through Project Bluedot are already members. For others, a one-time membership contribution of \$250 is requested. Additional donations are welcome and will help us reach our initial funding goals.

To join the Society:

- By cheque to Rideau-Roxboro Community Defence Fund Society — call or text Tony Morris, KC at 403-831-2490 for pickup
- By e-transfer to [rrcdfs@yahoo.com](mailto:rrcdfs@yahoo.com)

Thank you for supporting the future of our community.

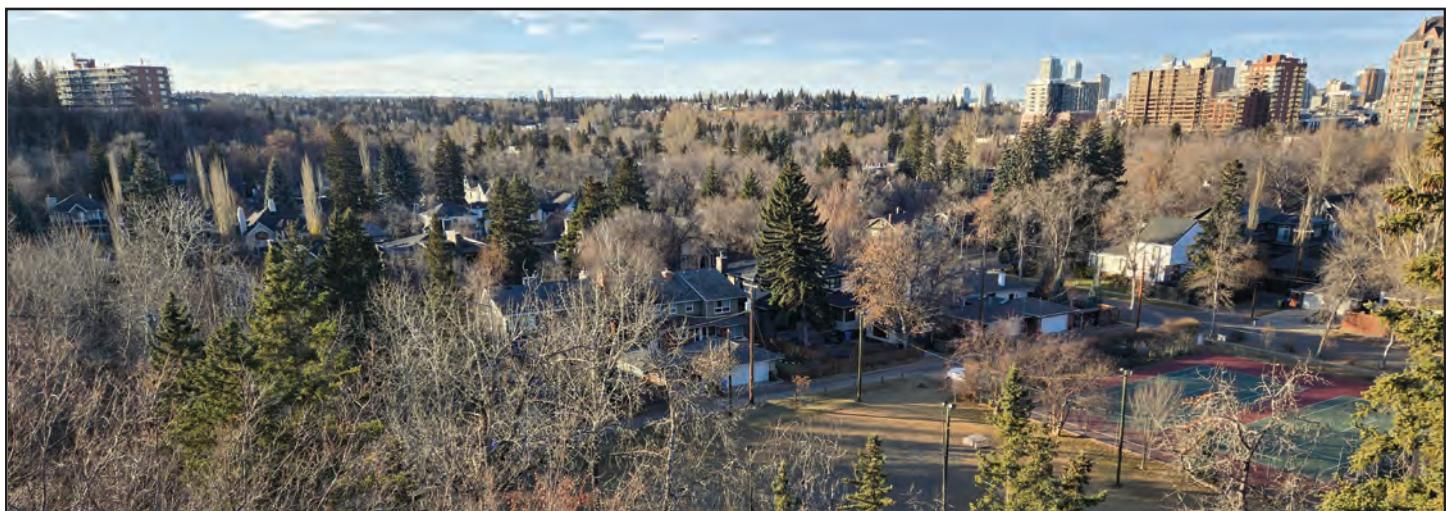
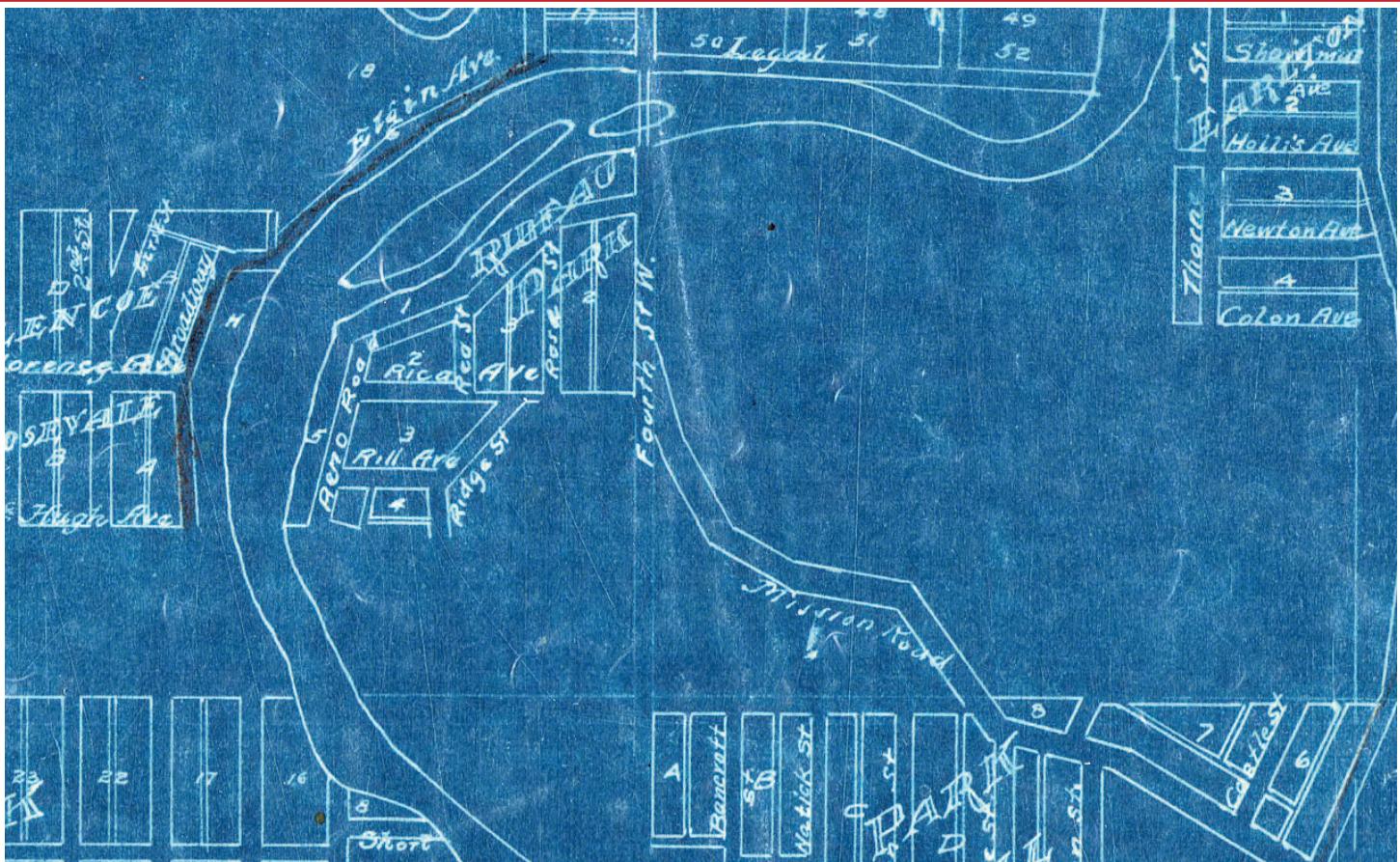


Photo Credit: Tracey J. Johnson

# What's in a Name?

Curated by Tracey J. Johnson



Courtesy of Glenbow Library and Archives Collection, Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, Univ. of Calgary

1910 City Engineer's Map showing original street names in Rideau, including Elgin Avenue for what is now Elbow Drive, Reno Road for Rideau Road, Rica Avenue for 30th Avenue, Rill Avenue for 31st Avenue, Red Street for 5a Street, Rose Street for 5th Street, and Ridge Street for what is now the alley in front of Rideau Park School.

In 1875, a troop of North-West Mounted Police under the command of Inspector Éphrem A. Brisebois (appointed 2 years earlier in the newly organized NWMP) was sent to establish a post at the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers to maintain law and order in the Bow River country. The 25-year-old Brisebois issued an unauthorized order to name the post after himself - Fort Brisebois. In short order, Brisebois was considered unfit to command his men and his continued insubordination led to his resignation from the NWMP in August 1876, after the arrival of his superior, Colonel James Farquharson Macleod. MacLeod suggested changing the name to Fort Calgary, after his relatives' castle in Scotland called Calgary House, located on Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull, which he had recently visited. Calgary dropped "Fort" from its name when it was incorporated into a town in 1884.

The word "Calgary" is of Gaelic origin and depending on where you look, could mean "clear running water", though it's now generally agreed that it means "bay farm". Scottish etymology aside, Calgary was originally known as "at the elbow" by its first settlers, the Indigenous peoples of Southern Alberta. The "elbow" refers to the sharp "elbow-like" bend made by the Bow River and the Elbow River. The Bow River was named for the reeds that grew on its banks, used by Indigenous peoples to make bows.

Roxboro was originally named Roxborough Place in 1912 by its developer, Fred C. Lowes. This name was taken from a town and shire in Scotland called Roxburgh (meaning "Hroc's fortress" – Hroc being an ancient landowner) and was probably used to appeal to Scottish settlers during Calgary's real estate boom in the early twentieth century. The name was anglicized to Roxborough and has since been shortened to Roxboro. The community of Rideau Park likely takes its name from the Rideau River and Rideau Canal which flow through Ottawa.



# ROXBOROUGH PLACE

Favored by Nature in Everything that goes to  
make A Beautiful Residence Site

**\$50,000 has already been Spent**

**\$50,000 more will be Spent**

**By F. C. LOWES & CO.**

To make ROXBOROUGH PLACE the most Superb Residence  
 District in the City of Calgary

A Large Crew of Men have Worked Day and Night all Summer with  
 Hydraulic Plant and Teams Grading and Terracing the Mission Hill  
 and Widening the Boulevard, to a 100 feet and a 2% grade from  
 the Mission Bridge to the Top of the Hill. Concrete Posts sixteen feet  
 high with Electroliers have been placed 80 feet apart which will  
 illuminate this Boulevard.

ROXBOROUGH PLACE encircled on two sides by this Boulevard now  
 has Graded Streets, Cement Sidewalks with Park Strip, Cement Curb,  
 and Shade Trees planted in front of Every Lot.

The Buyers of Roxborough Place on OCTOBER 21st will reap the  
 benefit of all this Improvement Work, which will make

ROXBOROUGH PLACE The Beauty Spot of Calgary

The Building Restrictions on this property are \$3,500, no house shall be  
 built on less than 50 feet, and not less than 25 feet back from the  
 property line. These are the things that will make ROXBOROUGH PLACE  
 what it should be, the Highest Class Restricted Residence District  
 of this City.

**Terms of Sale 1-4 Cash, Balance 4 - 8 - & 12 Months, Interest 8 p.c.**

*F. C. Lowes & Co.*

Owners

807 First Street West, Calgary



48 BEAUTIFULLY WOODED RIVER LOTS WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE OCTOBER 21st AT 10 a.m.



# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 24, 2025 1-4 PM

🎵 CAROLING

🐎 HORSE & SLEIGH

🔥 S'MORES

⛸ ICE SKATING

🎅 VISIT FROM SANTA

PLEASE BRING CHRISTMAS  
BAKING TO SHARE



# Rideau Roxboro Community Flavour

“This recipe is a family favorite - fast to prepare and the kids all like it. Plus, it’s great for leftovers!”

- Shirley Storwick

## Parmesan Bruschetta Chicken

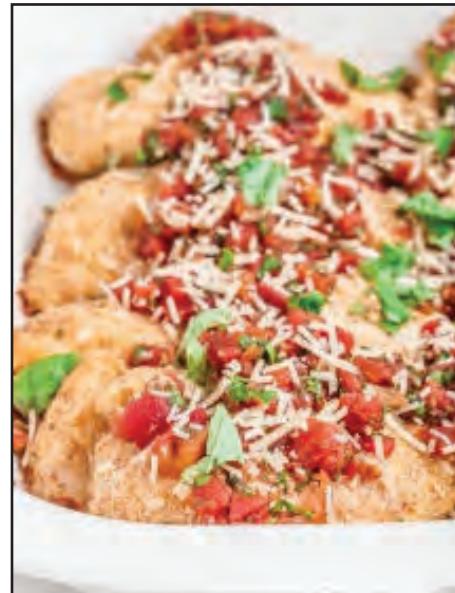
### Ingredients

For the Chicken:

all purpose flour  
1-2 large eggs, beaten  
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1/3 cup dry Italian bread crumbs - I have used GF too  
1 tbsp. melted butter or olive oil  
5 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, towel dried

For the Bruschetta Topping:

28 oz Italian diced tomatoes, drained  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 TB olive oil  
1/4 cup freshly shaved Parmesan cheese  
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped  
1 1/2 TB balsamic vinegar  
kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste  
OR  
Use a jar of bruschetta



### Directions

Preheat oven to 375F with rack on middle position. Line a large baking pan with foil (or grease it.)

Place flour in a bowl. Place beaten eggs in another bowl. In a pie dish, combine bread crumbs and grated Parmesan cheese.

Place towel dried chicken breasts in a single layer on cutting board. Dip each piece in the flour, coating both sides and shaking off excess. Dip into eggs, letting excess drip off. Dip into bread crumb mixture to coat both sides. Place chicken breasts in prepared baking pan in a single layer covered with foil.

Bake covered for 15 - 20 minutes. Uncover chicken and bake 10 mins. just until insides are no longer pink; don't over bake. Then top with bruschetta and a bit more parmesan cheese and bake 3-5 mins. Baking time depends on size of chicken breasts.

# Rideau Roxboro Community Association (RRCA) Membership

## Be Part of Our Community!

Join the Rideau Roxboro Community Association and help keep our neighbourhood vibrant, connected, and a great place to live! Your membership supports the up-keep and operation of Marion Gibson Hall, tennis & sport courts, the ice rink and community events throughout the year.

### Membership Benefits:

- Unlimited tennis court use
- Unlimited sport court use
- Skating rink (with Zamboni maintenance)
- Roxboro Park playground
- Marion Gibson Hall rental
- Newsletter updates
- Flash email updates (breaking community news)
- Beautification of 4th street garden beds
- Community parties (summer party and winter fest)
- Crime watch flash emails

**Family membership/ \$100 | Senior membership \$50 per year**

Join today at [rideauroxboro.com/membership](http://rideauroxboro.com/membership)

Questions? email [president@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:president@rideauroxboro.com)



## Rent Marion Gibson Hall

Marion Gibson Hall and Sara Scout Hall are available to Rideau Roxboro community members with active memberships. If you are interested in renting either hall please contact Jen Everingham at [hallrentals@rideauroxboro.com](mailto:hallrentals@rideauroxboro.com)

