

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Some facts about The Bridges when the redevelopment is completed in 10 to 15 years:

- Expected population — 2,000 to 2,500.
- Total area: 14.4 hectares.
- Parks and open space — 4.6 hectares.
- Total number of developments — 17.
- Maximum number of units — 1,575.

Successful phase One Condo projects:

- Bella Citta / Bella Lusso by Bucci Development Ltd
- Pontefino 1 and 2 by Sandlewood Developments Ltd
- The Piazza by Townscape Properties Ltd.
- Acqua / Vento by Windmill Development Group Ltd.
- Olive by Homes By Avi.

— Total of 425 units in seven buildings.



Calgary Herald Archive
The Vento development.

FROM PAGE J2

RIVER: Downtown

Alex Ferguson, development manager for Apex Cityhomes, believes “Bridgeland offers the best of centre city living in Calgary.”

He says the mid-rise type of architecture of the Phase Two projects offers a built form that differs significantly from the highrise condo towers of Eau Claire and the Beltline.

It is also distinct in that it is part of the Bridgeland community, which has tree-lined streets with character homes, playgrounds, schools and churches.

Ferguson says more than 2,000 people have expressed interest in the company’s Crossing project and “we are confident that if the condo demand continues as it has for the past six months, we will hopefully be in a position to proceed with our project in the near future.”

Bridgeland-Riverside was first settled in 1880s by Russian-German born immigrants, followed by Italian and Ukrainians in the early 20th century.

Originally called Riverside due to its proximity to the Bow River, the community stretches from the Bow River on the south up the river embankment to 8th Avenue on the north — and from Edmonton Trail on the west to Nose Creek on the east.

It was incorporated as a village in 1903 and annexed by the City of Calgary in 1910. The name Bridgeland was coined by the Dominion Bridge Co. in 1908 and the community is most often referred to by this name

In some ways, Bridgeland is almost like two communities,

with the upper escarpment area (north of 1st Avenue) being primarily single-family homes and the area to the south consisting of the new The Bridges LRT village.

It is currently a desirable place to live given its proximity to Tom Campbell’s Hill Park as well as the Calgary Zoo, the new Telus World of Science, the Calgary International Airport and the LRT.

It is also within walking distance of downtown.

Bridgeland was once famous for its red light district prior to the First World War, later becoming more well known as “Little Italy” due to its many Italian bakeries, restaurants and grocery stores along 1st Avenue N.E. — some of which still remain.

Laurie Stretch, who chaired the Save Our Inner City School Coalition, is optimistic about the future of Bridgeland.

Her group successfully convinced the Calgary Separate School Board to keep Bridgeland’s St. Angela Elementary School open based on demographics showing that even without students from other neighbourhoods, enrolment would grow significantly in the next few years due to Bridgeland becoming more attractive to urban professional families.

Stretch proudly points out that “for the first time in over a generation, St. Angela has two kindergarten classes this year.”

The coalition also successfully lobbied for St. Angela to become a workplace school where parents can conveniently drop their children off on their way to work down-



Photos, Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

Above, Russell Reimer at his job in his live/work unit. Left, the family enjoys some time off at a nearby playground.



town.

“Bridgeland’s Langevin School, with its science-based program, has also been a tremendous success and is operating at capacity,” says Stretch.

The Bridges project has added architectural interest and attracted a new generation of young professionals that is changing the face of Bridgeland, she says.

“It is bringing affluent professionals and young families, which is evident by the busy soccer fields and well-used

playgrounds around the striking new Community Hall. The Bridges is quickly becoming the heart of Bridgeland.”

When he is asked about what is still missing in his new neighbourhood, Reimer responds: “We need a neighbourhood pub. Nothing crazy, just a social place to meet friends and neighbours.”

Other than that, “we know all the neighbours; our son has a park and playground around the corner. It really is small town living in the big city.”

SIMPLIFY YOUR COMMUTE

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Simplify Your Commute

Brandon Anson

For many Calgarians who work in the downtown core, driving to and from work can be quite the hassle. With long lines of cars and irritable drivers at every turn, just getting to work or going home can be a stressful experience.

For potential homebuyers looking for somewhere to call their own that is close enough to the rat race, Statesman Homes’ Riverside Quays has a solution.

Nestled alongside Pearce Estate Park and the Bow River, Riverside Quays isn’t just a picture perfect development. The Quays acts as a launching pad for those looking to quickly access several major traffic arteries, such as Blackfoot, Memorial, Deerfoot Trail and only 10 minutes from the downtown core.

It was the central location of Riverside Quays that first attracted Pat Boyd in September 2009.

Boyd, who is living in Phase 1 at The Quays, said he enjoys not only the central location in Inglewood, but the amenities provided.

One of the more enticing amenities Statesman provides for residents of Riverside Quays is a

limo-bus that services the downtown core.

For residents who work downtown, they can leave their vehicles safe and sound in the Quays heated underground parking. They can also save up to \$500 a month in downtown parking fees.

Boyd, who works downtown as an analyst, used to take public transit, but switched to the limo-bus quickly after arriving at Riverside Quays.

“The Quays has two bus stops close by, [but] nothing beats a private ride with door-to-door service for a comparable cost,” said Boyd.

“I take the bus to and from work every day and have found it to be more flexible than the hard-set bus schedule,” said Boyd.

Residents who wish to sign up for the limo-bus service can sign up at the Bistro in the Amenities Center. For \$3.00 a trip, homeowners can ride in comfort as they head downtown.

For Boyd, the reason for using the limo-bus is simple: convenience. “Quays residents get the benefit of a downtown shuttle in addition to nearby bus routes, so one should never be stranded,” said Boyd. In addition, Boyd added, taking the

Quays’ limo-bus is a greener alternative.

Another key benefit for residents of Riverside Quays is the ability to text message or call ahead to the Bistro for their evening meals.

SHOW SUITE HOURS: Mon-Thu 12 - 7 / Fri-Sun 12 - 5
www.riverq.com - 403.685.7645 - 17 Inglewood Park SE
(corner of 17A St. SE & Blackfoot Tr. SE)

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