

# Rosedale Tennis Club Story

---

1971 - 2021



Rosedale Tennis Club Story, 1971-2021. The first 50 years. The story told within the historical perspective of the ebbs and flows of lawn tennis popularity and of Calgary settlement. Starting from 1873, the year of Calgary's first settler and coincidentally the year of lawn tennis's creation. With particular attention paid to the community of Rosedale and the neighbouring communities.

# Rosedale Tennis Club Story

1971-2021

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	4
2. Lawn Tennis Origins	6
3. Lawn Tennis in Canada	7
4. Lawn Tennis in Calgary	9
4.1 1884 - 1896	
4.2 1896 -1914	
4.3 1914 - 1970	
4.4 1970s Tennis Boom	
4.5 1970 - 2021	
5. Rosedale Tennis Club Story	28
5.1 1970 Founding	
5.2 1970s	
5.3 1980s & 1990s	
5.4 2000 - 2021	
5.5 Lessons	
5.6 Courts	
5.7 Inter-Club	
5.8 2021	
6. References	54
7. Appendices	
Appendix A - Summary of RTC Activities 1970 - 2021	55
Appendix B - RTC Directors 1970 - 2021	57
Appendix C - Pre-Tennis Calgary 1873 - 1883	58
7C.1 Bison	
7C.2 Indigenous Peoples	
7C.3 Trading Posts, Missionaries, and Homesteaders	
7C.4 NWMP	
7C.5 Ranching	
7C.6 Remittance Men	
7C.7 Railway	
7C.8 Townspeople	
Appendix D - Calgary History	66
7D.1 1884 - 1896	
7D.2 1896 - 1914	

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

### 7D.3 1914 - 1925

## Appendix E - Rosedale & Neighbouring Communities History

69

### 7E.1 1873 - 1925

### 7E.2 1925 - 1950

### 7E.3 1950 - 2000

### 7E.4 2000 - 2021

## 1. Introduction

It is a warm evening in late May. On the grass field next to the tennis courts, four & five year olds bunched in tight packs are chasing soccer balls. The field sidelines are filled with siblings, parents and grandparents. Piano music wafts through the air from the open windows of the second floor community hall dance studio as the teenage ballet dancers do their barre exercises. The tennis courts are busy with doubles matches, and those waiting to play chat on benches along the court sidelines. Spring evenings show Rosedale community at its best and the tennis club plays its part.

Long after the soccer kids are at home getting ready for the next day's school and after the teenage ballet dancers have finished their lessons, the tennis players have turned on the lights and continue to play in constantly changing team combinations. Players with sore knees and backs have retired to the benches to sip a beer, chat, and kibitz with those still on court. The evening mix-in social doubles atmosphere is unique to Rosedale Tennis Club (RTC). In many ways it characterizes the Club as it has evolved up until 2021: aiming to provide a friendly, welcoming small club atmosphere that is affordable. The story that follows is how we arrived at this time and place.

When I became RTC President in 2013, Ron Beugin handed over a large box of documents that had been passed down from past Club directors since 1970. He mentioned that some of it was quite interesting. The box sat unopened in a dusty corner of my basement for seven years. Then with RTC's 50th anniversary approaching and the extra time available due to Covid-19 lockdowns (and retirement), I took a peak into the box. Ron was right - there was some interesting stuff in there.

The old papers were taken from the box, purged and sorted; those retained are now filed in the community association's office. Some years have a complete set of board meeting minutes & activity announcements. Some years have very little documentation; the hand-off between directors having broken-down. These hard copy documents cover the first 30 years of RTC. Digital files are available for the most recent 20 years. To supplement the dry statistical story told by the documents, founding members or their children were contacted for their memories of the first years of the club. Similar to the documents, these memories are incomplete. In addition to the founding years, stories contributed by longtime members from the next four decades were also solicited.

The opportunity to expand the story beyond a simple accounting of RTC's history, to provide more context on setting and on people, came about due to the months of Covid-19 home lockdown. Poking around on the internet trying to satisfy my curiosity on questions such as "who was playing tennis in Calgary in the early days" & "where in Calgary was tennis first played" led me down a lot of rabbit holes. As this ancillary information was collated, a story new to me emerged - lawn tennis history was not a simple listing of rule changes and past champions, but it was also a social phenomenon; at times leading social change and at times insular. For example, women were instrumental to the initial popularity of the game and also spurred the two subsequent waves of increased popularity in the 1920s and early 1970s. These changes are also seen in Calgary's tennis history and even turn-up in RTC's history - the Club's founding coincided with the crest of the most recent wave of tennis popularity.

To set the scene for the Rosedale Tennis Club story, a brief history of lawn tennis since its creation in 1873 is presented. This is followed by the story of tennis's arrival in Canada the next year and the subsequent introduction of tennis to the North West Territories. The history of tennis in Calgary from the first documented match in 1884 to Present Day is summarized. Finally, after all of this background context, the Rosedale Tennis Club story is presented using photos, player stories, and information from old club board documents.

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

The arrival of the first homesteader in the Calgary region in 1873 was also the year lawn tennis was created in Britain. The Calgary area went from roaming bison herds to lawn tennis matches eleven years later. To capture this sudden and dramatic change, I have included as an appendix a characterization of 1873 Calgary. A second appendix presents snippets of Calgary history after the arrival of tennis and can be consulted when reading the Calgary tennis story presented in the main text. There, you can read the tales of when a cat was traded for a horse by the NWMP, how hotel billiard tables were rented-out as beds for the night, and how the Sundance Kid fits into Calgary's story.

A third appendix provides select stories of Rosedale and surrounding communities from buffalo pasture to the Present Day. Read how SAIT's location was determined by an unpaid tax bill and that Rosedale was in the flight path of Canada's first lighted airport runway located in Renfrew to the east.

A list of the most important references is given at the end. There are a few loose ends in the history not yet resolved, partially because of limited Glenbow and City archive access due to Covid-19. Readers are encouraged to contact RTC if they have additional material to contribute or if they spot any egregious errors. It will be fairly easy to do an update and repost.

This story is presented with three audiences in mind. Firstly, the current members of RTC, especially recent members and those living outside of the community, who may not know Rosedale or RTC's "story". Secondly, current Rosedale residents in general - the Calgary historical appendices provide supplemental information to the "Rosedale Stories" posted on the community website, though some excerpts from Kate Reeve's book are repeated for the benefit of RTC out of community members. Thirdly, future members of the Club - RTC has been thriving over the past decade, leading to an expectation it will be active for the next 50 years and that the stories captured here will still have some resonance at the 100th anniversary.

Thanks to Alvin, Kim, Mike, Dan, Greg, Ron, Carol and Jackie for their story recollections. And thanks to Ron, Moira, and Norm for their edits and suggestions.

David Paterson, December 2021

## 2. Lawn Tennis Origins

Europeans have been bashing balls against walls in monasteries ("real tennis") and outdoors over a net for a thousand years (see 1620 painting below). Nevertheless, all modern sports seem to have need of a foundation "myth" and tennis is no exception. For tennis, it began during the modern sports rules codifying frenzy (soccer, rugby, badminton, cricket and tennis) characteristic of the Late Victorian Age in Britain. Sport was advocated by the Victorians as healthy and practiced by the landed gentry at their country homes. In turn, their activities were mimicked by the swelling numbers of middle class people riding the increased economic prosperity of the times and the new availability of leisure time.

What sets tennis apart from the other codified sports and was the major factor in its universal popularity, is the participation of women - so much so, that in the early days, mixed doubles tennis was more popular than singles, with the emphasis on sociability rather than active competition.



Walter Clopton Wingfield\*, a Welsh army major, is usually credited as the inventor of lawn tennis. In December 1873, he introduced the game at a country estate in North Wales\*\*, the last of several demonstrations he arranged, having tweaked the rules based on feedback he received from earlier demonstrations at Rhysnant, his Welsh estate. In fact, by 1873 there were other versions of lawn tennis being played at the same time, some quite established as they were based in clubs formed for that purpose. Wingfield's name is remembered and not the others because of his entrepreneurial skills - he

\*There are connections to Canada here, as Wingfield's father was an army captain serving in York (Toronto) in 1837 with the regiment that put down the Mackenzie rebellion. His wife later died while he was serving in Quebec City and is buried there.

\*\*Author Note. Wingfield was born in Ruabon Village, Wales into a minor branch of the family, characterized by church rectors and military officers. My maternal great grandparents were living there at the time, working in the coal mines. Ruabon is located on Offa's Dyke, the earthworks erected by the Saxon King of Mercia to keep the marauding Welsh restricted to the uplands. Wingfield is a descendent of Norman robber-barons known as the Marcher Lords that erected castles along the Welsh border and were given free rein by the English Kings to keep the independent Welsh from encroaching. In the late 18th century, my Welsh peasant ancestors were displaced from upland North Wales by the landed gentry (Marcher Lord descendents) who threw the Welsh sharecroppers off the land to more profitably graze sheep. I like to think that my family has had its revenge 250 years later, as Wingfield turns in his grave watching me mangle his beautiful game, as another volley goes into the net.

commissioned the manufacture of 1,000 tennis kits (rules booklet, balls, net, racquets and chalk) at a cost of five guineas before he introduced the game to polite society and critically, he got the endorsements of the social influencers of that era - the landed gentry and minor royalty. No game has ever attained such sudden and universal popularity. The 2021 equivalent in Canada would be the explosion of pickle ball as a sport over the last decade.

Before the introduction of lawn tennis to the sporting calendar of Britain, croquet was the sport of choice for most wealthy members of society - at least on a social basis because it was the only sport where women participated. Croquet offered a slow paced game and a chance for conversation when playing, leading to inevitable flirtation between the sexes. Most country estates had croquet greens before the arrival of lawn tennis.

The croquet greens were soon converted to lawn tennis courts as the younger crowd favoured the athleticism of lawn tennis over the '*intolerable and tedious*' fashion of croquet, as characterized by the newspapers. The name of the game was changed from Wingfield's "Sphjairistike" to lawn tennis and the rules were standardized by 1875. Wingfield's hourglass shaped court was changed to a rectangular court and the dimensions were fixed. Even the croquet clubs like Wimbledon started turning over one of their croquet lawns for tennis.

Wimbledon had been formed in 1869 as the All England Croquet Club by the editor of *The Field Magazine* along with 5 other founders. It took only three years from lawn tennis's inception to the first real tournament in 1877, held at Wimbledon. This short turnaround from invention to competition is impressive. In contrast, The FA Cup, soccer's first tournament, took place 9 years after rules codification.

Tennis originally was played by adults only, with the accent on the social aspects of the game such as Sunday afternoon teas. With the introduction of tournaments, tennis changed from a pastime to a sport. During the second championship, in 1878, something unusual happened. One competitor threw the ball above his head to start the point, creating the overhand serve. It took awhile to catch on as many considered those "violent" serves contrary to proper court etiquette. By 1881 all top players were using the overhead serve, and when in 1882 the net height was dropped to the current three feet, the overhand serve became the most effective technique.

The Wimbledon championships became one of the sporting events in the London "Season" - the traditional time for the country gentry to be resident in their London townhouses and royalty in their London palaces. Balls, charity events and sporting contests ran from April to early July and served to introduce young people to polite society - functioning as a chaperoned marriage brokerage. The sporting events include various horse races such as Ascot, the Henley Rowing Regatta and Wimbledon. In modern times, corporations sponsor the events and tickets are given to favoured clients - this is why you often see tipsy bankers sleeping-off an extended wine & prawn lunch in centre court seats on a sunny day at Wimbledon.

Technology advances had a significant part in the success of tennis. Natural gut strings for racquets were produced by Pierre Babolat, a specialist in sausage casing, one year after Wingfield's game was invented. The prior invention of vulcanized rubber by Goodyear and unpressurized air filled balls in Germany were essential to the game's success. The balls were covered with white flannel at first. Pressurized balls would not arrive until the 1920s when Penn invented the pressurized tube. The wooden ash racquets were originally pear shaped.

Changes made to the game in the next decades were mostly directed to fostering tournament growth which saw an international scene begin to develop. In 1900, the first Davis Cup was held. In 1913, Canada sent a three man team to England to play in the Davis Cup. This was a challenge cup at the time and the Canadians beat the South African and Belgium teams, but lost to the Americans who went on to play England in the finals. Within a couple of decades, there were four established major tournaments: Wimbledon, the US Open, the Australian Open and the French Open.

Just as women were fundamental to the initial popularity of tennis, Suzanne Lenglen, a French eight time Grand Slam singles champion in the 1920s, helped make tennis a global game and sparked the second wave of tennis popularity. Her tournament success along with her balletic playing style and outspoken personality helped make Lenglen a national heroine in France. Lenglen revolutionised the sport by integrating the aggressive style of men's tennis into the women's game and breaking the convention of women competing in clothing unsuitable for tennis. She incorporated fashion into her matches and she was the first female athlete to become a global sport celebrity. Her popularity was such it led Wimbledon to move to its larger modern-day venue.

Lenglen later turned her back on the tennis establishment and became the first tennis professional in 1926, signing to headline a professional tour in North America, including matches in Montreal, Toronto, Victoria and Vancouver. Her Grand Slam success had not led to her receiving any share of the wealth generated. She criticized the barriers that typically prevented ordinary people from becoming tennis players:

*"Under these absurd and antiquated amateur rulings, only a wealthy person can compete, and the fact of the matter is that only wealthy people do compete. Is that fair? Does it advance the sport? Or does it tend to suppress and hinder an enormous amount of tennis talent lying dormant in the bodies of young men and women whose names are not in the social register?"*



*Suzanne Lenglen caused a scandal at Wimbledon with her dress, but became a fashion icon..*

Not much had changed since 1873 until the changes brought about by Lenglen. Her professional tours led to the first major men's professional tournament the following year. Tennis popularity peaked with Lenglen and then began a long slow decline for the next four decades. Players who turned pro played head-to-head exhibition matches and the occasional professional tournament for paying audiences. They were no longer permitted to play in the amateur tournaments, but were paid well for their professional efforts. This changed in 1968 with the start of the Open Era that led to the third wave of



tennis popularity (more on this in section 4.4). And indirectly to the founding of the Rosedale Tennis Club.

### 3. Lawn Tennis in Canada

Wingfield sold over 1,000 tennis kits in 1874, his first year of business, including documented sales to Canada in May & July 1874. Kits were also shipped as far away as India, China and Russia as British military officers and government officials took the game to the colonies and around the world. Isidore Hellmuth was an early Canadian purchaser. He was studying in England and returned to London, Ontario each year where he set up a tennis court at Huron College. He is believed to have helped found what became the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club in 1874. He was the first Canadian tennis tournament champion in 1881, only four years after the Wimbledon tournament was first played. The Canadian championship is the second oldest major tournament in the world. The game spread rapidly across Canada, being first played in Halifax as early as 1876 where the tennis court was located on the archery ground on the west side of the Public Gardens (must have been tricky retrieving an errant ball). A lawn tennis club was formed in Winnipeg in 1882. In 1890 the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association was formed. Who was playing the game in Canada? A newspaper article describing the Toronto Tennis Club scene in 1886 gives us some clues:

*"The entrance fee was placed at a high figure. On these occasions there is often a gathering of the representative beauty and fashion of Toronto, who meet, some to play but the majority, we must confess, to look and talk."*

Sports came west onto the prairies with the arrival of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP). The troopers of the NWMP participated in the hunting, fishing and horse racing culture of the territories. But, they also brought Victorian sports to the prairies. Cricket seems to have been the main sport for the troopers and is mentioned in letters and diaries, e.g. a recruit in a 1874 letter to his Father in England mentions the troop is taking cricketing gear on what turned into the near disastrous trek west to establish Fort Walsh. In 1876, the summer following NWMP arrival in Calgary, the men of E Division set-up some cricket stumps on a pitch south of the fort with the Elbow River forming one boundary.

A sense of sport in the life of the NWMP is captured in a May 7th, 1875 diary entry of Richard Barrington, NWMP Doctor, from Fort McLeod:

*"This being Saturday, there was no drill, so we spent the morning making another cricket bat and after lunch we adjourned to the prairie and had a grand game."*

Two weeks later on a day off to celebrate the Queen's birthday they played cricket again, but also baseball after the cricket match. Organized baseball was played in Calgary in 1884, popular with the railway workers, but it continued to play second fiddle to cricket.

Lawn tennis came west with the officers, not the troopers, of the NWMP. NWMP officers were members of a social elite and espoused what they took to be the values of the English gentry. Most were raised in Eastern Canada and were members of prominent families. They had the *"feelings and manners of a gentleman"*. The troopers on the other hand were a motley lot (more on them in Appendix C).

The first documentation of lawn tennis on the prairies I could find was in a letter from Colonel Macleod to his wife dated 13th June 1880 from Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills: *"I have played a few games of lawn tennis. It is a very good game."* In Sam Steele's memoir "Forty Years in Canada" he mentions another game of tennis that same summer at Fort Walsh being played by senior officers in front of the

post when a prisoner was spotted escaping from the jail and they had to abandon their game to give pursuit. Tennis was being played at Fort Macleod by at least 1883. During that era, tennis courts were surfaced with dirt or in some cases cinders from the furnaces. Drumheller clay or Lethbridge clay (sites of large brickworks) became the surface of choice in the Calgary area with time.



*Glenbow Archives. Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills in 1878. Lawn Tennis was played here by 1880, if not sooner. There may be a game of cricket being played by group of men in foreground.*

It was the NWMP officer class that first brought lawn tennis to Calgary, but it was due to the social influence of two larger groups, the ranching community and the remittance men, that it thrived. These three groups all saw themselves as part of the social elite and took their cues from the pastimes of the English gentry. Golf, lawn tennis, and polo were their favourite sporting activities.

Golf first came to Canada with General Wolfe's Scottish officers. It was played in Calgary by 1890 on a course known as the Buffalo Wallow, north of 17th Ave. SW. Polo only arrived in Britain in 1876, imported from India by returning army officers, and its timeline to Canada parallels lawn tennis. It was introduced to southern Alberta at a ranch near Pincher Creek prior to 1886. It was played in Calgary by 1890. Calgary Polo Club grounds were in Hillhurst.

The business and professional families who arrived in Calgary with the railway in 1883 emulated these leisure activities. And significantly, it was the women that came with these families that allowed tennis to thrive. The participation of women made it part of the upper class social scene and not just one of the many sporting activities available for the boys. The same social elements that launched lawn tennis in English society were to play-out in establishing the game in Calgary.

## 4. Lawn Tennis in Calgary

### 4.1 1884-1896

The railway arrived in 1883, but the period 1884-1896 was a long decade of economic malaise, low grain prices, and unsuccessful pitches to NW European & American potential settlers. Calgary's population only grew from the 1,000 of 1884 to 3,900 by 1896. More details are provided in Appendix D.

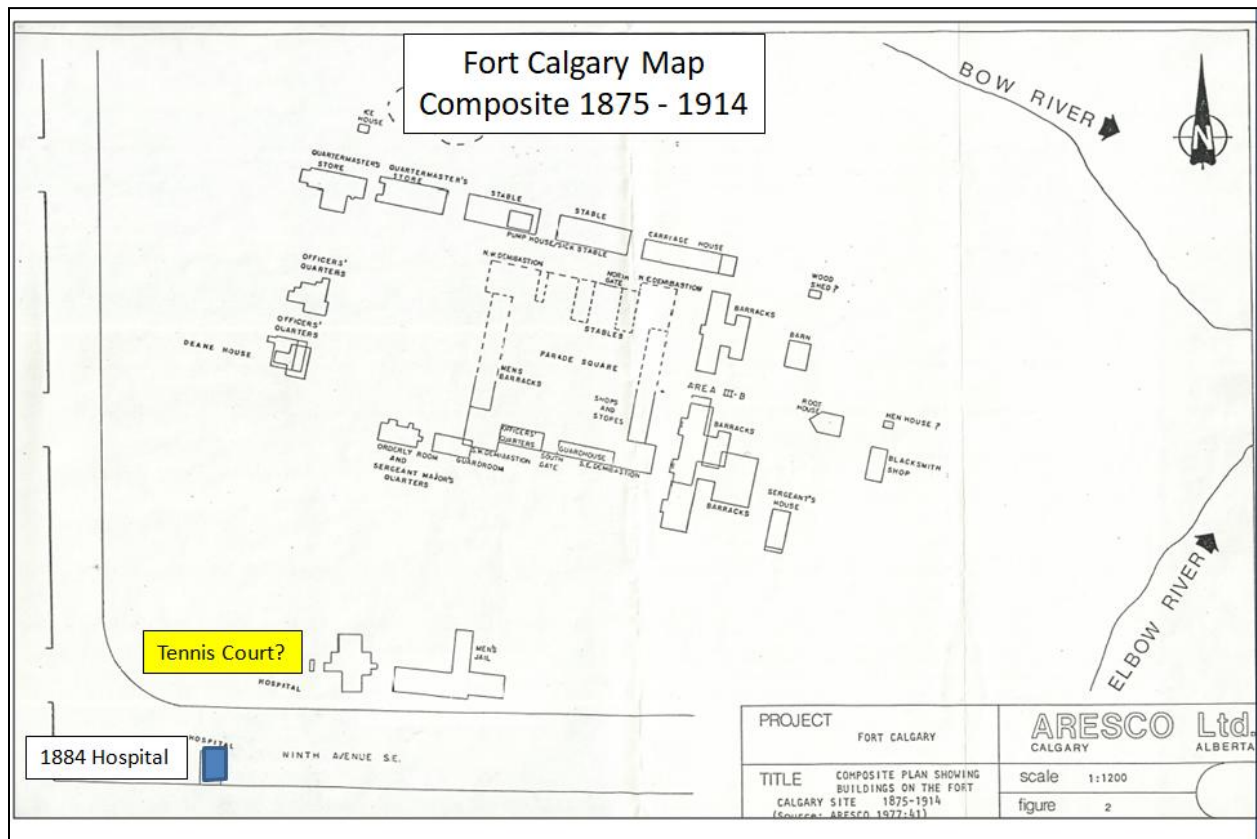
<p><b>Police Deserters.</b></p> <p>Three police stationed at Battleford, decamped on the 8th inst. Corp. Wilde and two men were sent from this post to the Blackfoot Crossing in search of the fugitives. Though diligent search was made for nine days they were not successful, no clue to their whereabouts being obtained. It is presumed they have made good their escape to the other side of the line. They took with them three police horses.</p> <hr/> <p><b>"Perseverence Wins."</b></p> <p>This is the title of a book written by Mr. Stephen Cureton, and consists of notes made by the author while travelling in Canada, Australia and elsewhere. There are some well written sketches scattered throughout its pages. The writer has issued this "career of a travelling correspondent" for a Toronto paper in the form a novelette, which may be interesting to some readers who care not to peruse works of travel. The experiences of several years are condensed and summed up in a book of 270 pages, which sells for fifty cents.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey Party.</b></p> <p>The Brabazon surveying party returned to town last Saturday, having completed the survey and sub-division of the following townships: 25 and 26, range 29 W. of 4th meridian; 25 and 26 in ranges 1 and 2 west of 5th meridian and 26 in range 3 west of 4th meridian. They commenced work on May 31st. The weather during the progress of the work was characterized by much rain. On seven days work had to be entirely suspended, from heavy and continuous rains. Leaving out these and Sundays the entire work was accomplished in thirty-six working days, a feat in surveying seldom equalled. There were eight men in the party.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Church of England.</b></p> <p>At a meeting of the members of the Church of England, held at Boynton Hall on Monday evening, it was decided to have the new church a free one. The name by</p>	<p>Mr. McCoskrie advertises an entertainment in Boynton Hall on Thursday and Friday evenings.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Buffalo.</b></p> <p>Mr. Tyrrell, of the Geological Survey, reports having seen a small herd of buffalo, about thirty in number, 100 miles north.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Lawn Tennis.</b></p> <p>A number of ladies and gentlemen intend playing lawn tennis this afternoon near the hospital.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Scalded.</b></p> <p>James Toman, engineer, C. P. R., who was scalded last Thursday at Canmore, is more seriously injured than was at first thought. He has been brought to Calgary to be treated by Dr. Henderson, the Company's physician.</p> <hr/> <p><b>The Coal Mines.</b></p> <p>Major Walsh's report on the coal mines is unfavorable, therefore work on the Medicine Hat mine has been stopped. The coal at South Saskatchewan is fairly good, but owing to low water in the river, preventing transportation, operations have been suspended. Cascade coal is much superior to either of the others, and we hope our citizens will be supplied during the coming winter from this mine. It would be strange, with an ample supply of coal at our doors, we should have to import from the United States.</p> <hr/> <p><b>C.Y.P.A.</b></p> <p>The regular fortnightly meeting of this Association was held on Monday evening, and the audience was quite large. After routine business, Mr. Munroe sang a Scotch song, the last verse of which he rendered in Gaelic. The debate on the license question provoked a good deal of excitement, and was ably sustained by Messrs. Loughheed, McKelvie, Rankin and Clark. The negative fell to the lot of Rev. Mr. Robertson and Messrs. Cushing, Johnston, and Jarrett. The umpires decided in the favor of the negative. The Misses Louie McNeil, Marsh, Gouin and Douglas sang a quartette entitled "Swinging 'Neath the Old Apple Tree." The audience would</p>
---	--

*Calgary Herald July 23rd 1884.*

The first document that I could find referencing tennis in the Calgary area is a Calgary Weekly Herald newspaper notice dated 23rd July, 1884, as shown above. The Herald's past editions back to August 1883 are digitized and when searched online for the keyword "tennis", this is the earliest link. Pioneer & NWMP diaries available online at the Glenbow Archives were also searched for early references. On the

Herald page, note the other articles about a buffalo herd sighted, a survey party, Lougheed (he became the CPR lawyer and laid the foundation of a political dynasty), and NWMP deserters. It is possible lawn tennis was played by the NWMP in Calgary as early as 1882, given its presence at Fort Walsh in 1880. What is intriguing about the newspaper notice is the tag "ladies". Perhaps the intent was to attract the few ladies resident amongst Calgary's population of 1,000 to the match as spectators and then entice them to hit a few balls?

The Calgary Herald notice of July 23, 1884 locates the tennis court near the NWMP hospital. The 1884 hospital was located on high ground to the SW of the rebuilt barracks, which Present Day would put the building in the east bound lane of 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. The CPR tracks & right of way were immediately to the south of the hospital and the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. cart trail to the north. Thus, the 1884 tennis court was likely located on flat ground just to the north of 9th Ave., where a grove of trees is found today. This is speculative because the Fort Calgary site was later the terminus for the Calgary-Edmonton Railway and then an industrial zone for 60 years before its 1975 excavation and restoration as a park.



*Courtesy of Fort Calgary Archivist. A plan of Fort Calgary buildings from 1875 to 1914. The July 23rd, 1884 Calgary Herald contains a notice of a tennis match on the field near the hospital that is shown in blue on the map.*

A month after the NWMP match, the Anglican Young Persons Association is documented playing tennis on a flat piece of ground at a picnic on Prince's Island in August 1884. They might have been using a "tennis kit" bought from Wingfield and kept as sporting gear by the church for just such occasions. Church and tennis were two of the socially acceptable ways to meet the few single women in town.

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

With the arrival of the railway in 1883, there was an influx of women to look after their brothers, act as governesses, housekeepers and as companions to other women.

For these adventurous women, perhaps life was too dull or prospects too limited in their Eastern Canada hometowns. It was these women that drove the social scene in Calgary once they became established. The men were often too busy running their businesses. Their days were a circle of teas, church, balls, theatre and tennis. They took lessons for riding, mountain climbing, bicycling, and tennis. Bob Edwards of The Calgary Eye Opener characterized these women as a pretentious bunch in this parody:

*"At the Browning Club an interesting paper was read by Mrs. Hangaline on the subject of grease spots and their eradication."*

There were other sports played in the early days of Calgary, but none with the social cache of lawn tennis. The NWMP were skating on a pond near their barracks in 1883. By 1884, there was a small covered rink, lit by lamps. A Calgary lacrosse club was formed in 1884. The Calgary curling club formed in 1885. There was horse racing on the flats on the north side of the Bow River near Nose Creek accompanied by heavy betting and drinking. The first polo club was not formed until 1890 and was favoured by members of the Ranchmen's Club. Initially they played at Owen's Race Track on the flats along the Elbow River, where Elbow Drive is located now. Later moving to Hillhurst.



*Glenbow Archives. The 1895 Annual Coyote Hunt on North Hill (maybe Rosedale area) by the Sons of England Benevolent Society. This was one year before Calgary's "Little England" world changed forever.*

Southern Alberta was known as "the land of the second son". Many of the remittance men bought ranches and then hired people to manage it while they lounged around town. They had a significant influence on the establishment of lawn tennis in Calgary. Polo, tennis and cricket were favoured sports. Below is a contemporary description of Alberta's remittance men:

*"In a land of cowboys and loggers, their attempts to recreate the aura of landed gentry were sometimes misunderstood - and often ridiculed. Many Canadians thought steeplechase tracks, easels, tennis and "taking ease" were futile pursuits for a group of otherwise pleasant and well-educated men. Small wonder, for they arrived complete with monocles, tweeds, breeches, tennis rackets, polo mallets, straw hats, tuxedos... Who could not laugh at stories of men buying farms, planting orchards, living on ranches, when they had neither the knowledge to run them, nor the desire to do so? With the outbreak of WWI many of the remittance men returned to the UK, to a death in the trenches or to inherit an estate of an older brother who met that fate."*

In addition to NWMP posts, tennis was played very early on at the ranches west of Calgary. For example, Malcolm Miller left the NWMP in 1885 to ranch on the north fork of the Sheep River. He started a trading post at what became Millarville. His ranch had a hockey rink, tennis court and a swimming pool. Tennis may have been played prior to 1884 on the large ranching estates. In the Sheep River Valley there were at least 16 lawn tennis courts on the ranches by 1900. The High River Tennis Club was formed in 1906.

The business & professional families arriving with the railway soon took up the game of lawn tennis in Calgary. A few may have been introduced to the game in Eastern Canada before moving west, but most were likely influenced by the remittance men, NWMP officers, and ranchers. An Englishman, William Roper Hull, originally involved in ranching/butcher businesses and later a major real estate player had much to do with early Calgary tennis. In 1888 a lawn tennis club (CLTC) was formed with a court laid out on land owned by Hull on the NW corner of 7th Ave. and 2nd St. SW. The Club was socially active, including holding a ball to aid the hospital, newly built in 1888 on NWMP grounds.

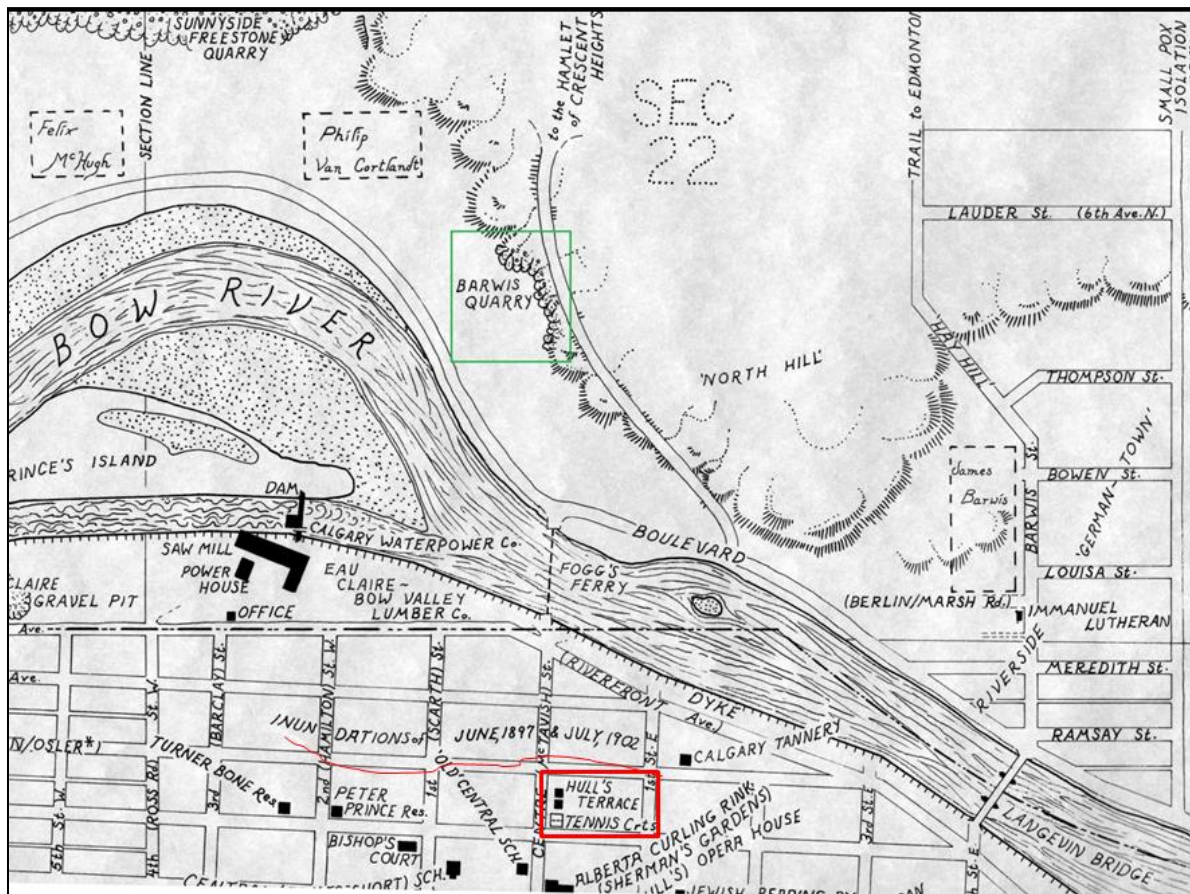


*Glenbow Archives. Photo of a January 1892 tennis match played on courts located at NE corner Centre St and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. Note the steep slopes of the Bow River escarpment to the north, much steeper than today. The buildings, Hull's Terraces, are still standing in 2021 Chinatown, located behind more recent brick buildings.*



There were regular matches between CLTC and NWMP. The Mounties improved their court at the fort by surfacing it with Drumheller shale. By the 1890s there were two courts at CLTC, and it served as one of Calgary's social centres, hosting band concerts and parties, many sponsored by Mr. Hull. Hull also had a court built on his Langmore estate located on 12th Ave. & 6th St. SW. The lawn tennis club courts later moved to another Hull property located at 4th Ave. SW and Centre St. as shown in the 1892 photo above.

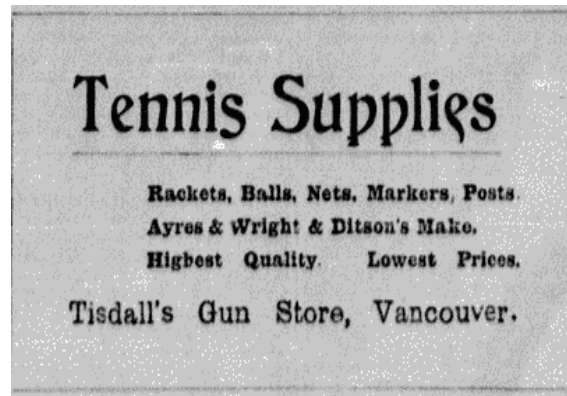
The 1892 photo is looking north and shows the escarpment to the east of today's McHugh Bluff. Note the proper tennis attire of white clothes, ties and jackets. This photo must have gone "viral" for the times because by 1898 the Calgary City Council when meeting with representatives of the Dominion Government (Alberta would not be a province for another 7 years) complained that the federal agents in Europe were using it to promote immigration to the West and the Council was concerned that maybe they were somewhat overstating their claim that *"the local weather was not the frozen Arctic of reputation, but that lawn tennis could be played at Christmas."*



*City Archives. A 1905 map was a copy of an earlier survey with some notations of recent changes. The location of the tennis courts on Hull's property is highlighted. Note the location of the smallpox isolation hospital in the extreme NE of the map sheet, the sandstone quarries on the north side of the river, the flood line high water mark in what is now Chinatown (behind a dyke), and a tannery on the south bank. The south bank had businesses and houses to the water's edge; the north bank was undeveloped.*

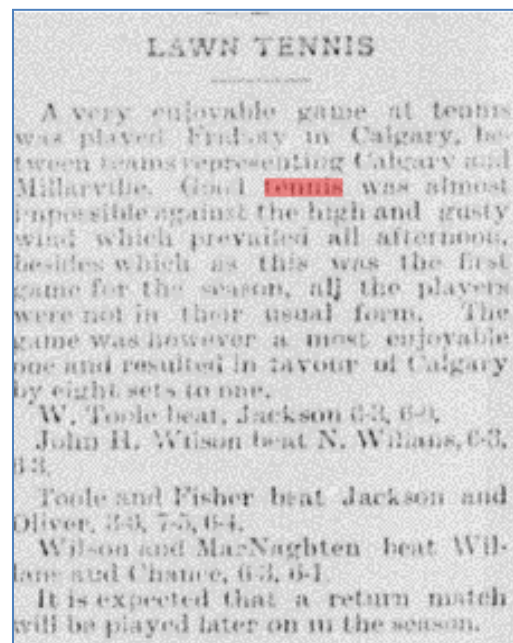
In 1896, Calgary was caught in the economic doldrums. It was not much more than a ranching and railway service centre. The tennis scene was a small town affair. In 1894 there were 26 players in the

annual CLTC tournament. The Hudson's Bay Cup, for the championship of Manitoba and the North West Territories, was won by Lethbridge players, though one of them Godwin W. Toole, later moved to Calgary and set-up a real estate business, and won again from 1893 to 1895. During that era a Sykes & Slazenger racquet could be purchased for \$2, while tennis balls were purchased by the Club at \$5.70 a dozen. CLTC club membership had risen to 45 players.



*1892 Calgary Herald ad for tennis supplies from a Vancouver Gun Store.*

There seems to have been too much work and not enough sport in Calgary by 1897. A Herald newspaper editorial laments the closing of the two tennis clubs in town. Though, that same year there were other notices in the paper calling a meeting to organize a new club, so maybe it was a site lease issue. The early courts were on leased land in the city centre and the land may have been turned-over for development as this was the first year of a 15 year economic boom. Tennis was still being played at the NWMP grounds and on private courts, with Toole's estate court being the site of Sunday matches with teas for Calgary's "genteel society". Matches between the city and ranchers occurred as shown below by the account of an early Inter-Club Match with Millarville.



*Calgary Herald. An early Inter-Club match in May 1897 between Millarville and Calgary. W. Toole, a transplanted Lethbridge player, was a former champion for the NW Territories.*



**SPORT IN CALGARY**

To The Editor of THE HERALD.

SIR: Perhaps this heading should be changed to "the want of sport in Calgary." It would certainly be more suitable that way. In reviewing the sporting calendar for the last two or three years it is really surprising to see how little interest has been taken in any sport. First there was baseball. That started off with a great noise. Calgary would have the champion nine in the Territories. There was a large meeting, and for one season the games were well attended and the club kept up. Then interest slackened, a practice game could not be got up and today baseball is practically a dead letter in town.

For two years polo was very good. Crowds of people were attracted to the grounds at the annual tournament, good games were seen, and Calgary had a team to be proud of. This year it was decided that polo was slow, "really too far to go to the grounds, don't you know," and as a consequence the games played at this year's tournament, with one exception, were poor. The year before last there were two **tennis** clubs in town. Both had a good membership and the courts were full every afternoon. Last year one dropped out of existence and this year the survivor died quietly for lack of support.

Association football was started up well last year. A league was formed, clubs entered it and twelve matches were played. What happened this year? One club raised objections to playing at all, two disbanded and the fourth managed to get one game. Thus ended Association football for 1897. A brilliant record indeed!

Cricket, on the other hand, has shown a decided increase in popularity. Nearly every Saturday afternoon during the past summer there has been a match on the grounds. The membership increased and altogether a good season was put in.

Now, for a town the size of Calgary, and for one having as many young men in it as Calgary has, there is not a very good showing. It is well known that the smaller towns in Alberta, such as Edmonton, Macleod and Innisfail, have far more sport and athletics generally than Calgary.

Regina can hold football tournaments which are great successes, Medicine Hat hockey tournaments, but Calgary contents itself with a bicycle meet which is financially at all events a failure, and a polo tournament which is simply got up by some dozen men and receives no support from the town. It has been suggested that the bicycle is to blame for the present state of things, men going out

1897 Calgary Herald letter to the editor on the ups and downs of various sports in Calgary. Perhaps due to the arrival of bicycles in town.

#### 4.2 1897 - 1913

An 1896 change to a Liberal federal government coincided with an economic upturn and a new policy of redirecting settler recruitment to the non-Protestant European peasant heartland. This led to a flood of immigrants to the Territories. In southern Alberta, the immigrant farmers were not East Europeans, but second and third generation American farmers.

Tennis became firmly established in Calgary during the 1897 - 1913 economic boom. In 1902, there was a new court on 7th Ave. SW and by 1904 the West End Tennis Club was in operation. The first provincial tennis championships were held at Fort Calgary in 1906. In 1908, the Anglican Young Person's Association (AYPA) was playing on Prince's Island on four Drumheller shale courts.



*Glenbow Archives. 1910 Photo of YMCA Courts located at 9th Ave & 4th St SW across from grain elevators and the railway.*

There were YMCA courts located on 9th Av SW (see photo) behind their building. And in 1908, in the village of Crescent Heights, the Baccarra Tennis Club was formed (still searching for its exact location).

In May 1907, the CLTC leased five 70 ft. lots south of 17th Ave. and west of 8th St. SW with two courts open by July, later increased to four and a clubhouse. Senator Lougheed was honorary President and his influence allowed CLTC to lease the land from the CPR. Mr. Toole, a NW Territory champion in the early 1890s, was CLTC president. Provincial championships were held in August with spectators paying 25 cents and transportation arranged to this remote location. A major problem were the numerous dogs that found their way onto the courts and proved to be a real nuisance.

In 1909, there was a court located at 19th Ave. & 4th St. SW. East of the Elbow River, the St. John's Cricket and Tennis Club was organized. There were several courts on private grounds in Elbow Park and Mount Royal areas. There was a court on the grounds of the Normal Practice School (now Provincial Building) at 5th Ave. & 6th St. SW.

Tennis prospered in Calgary as the city grew fourteen-fold in population between 1896 and 1914. The Prince's Island Tennis Club took over from the AYPA and flourished with a membership of 150. Two more courts were added after WWI.

By 1911, tennis was at the very centre of Calgary's social scene. At the tournaments, there were dinners, entertainment, theatre parties, teas and drives in the country. Tennis gear could be bought at Ashdown Hardware. The shape of the original pear shaped tennis racquets had changed to flat topped.

The forerunner of the Elbow Park Tennis Club was started in 1911 by members of Christ Church. The various church congregations in Calgary often had tennis courts on their grounds. There was the Baptist Church Club at 14th Ave. & 4th St. SW, St Stephen's Church had courts on 14th Ave. & 11th St. SW; and St Mary's School had courts at 18th Ave. & 1st St. SW. The involvement of the churches and some schools spread the game to a wider range of society and introduced the game to juniors.



*Glenbow archive photo. CLTC site at base of Mount Royal. Four shale courts with a clubhouse. Men dressed in all whites & trousers and the ladies wearing a hat and in full length skirts.*

Mount Royal had been annexed to the City in 1907. Soon, the Mount Royal leased land became too valuable for tennis courts. By the 1912 season, CLTC had moved to its current Sunalta home with play on six shale courts and a clubhouse. All male members had to be shareholders, at a cost of \$75, except bank clerks or militia who paid an extra \$5 on their yearly dues - was this a means of keeping membership restricted to those approved by the club? At the 1912 Provincial Championships there was a record 300 plus entries. This was also the first year of the Calgary Stampede.

There were no public courts in Calgary during this pre-war period, though William Reader, Calgary Superintendent of Parks, had recommended tennis courts to the City Council in 1913. Reader was a tennis player. As part of his contract, Reader was given a house on Union Hill where he created a lush garden on the formerly barren hill - today's Reader Gardens. He also put in a grass tennis court next to the house. It was Reader who drove the building of public tennis courts and public gardens in Calgary. In 1914, the City approved plans for tennis courts in Bowness, a weekend summer cottage community at the time, but subsequently changed their mind as Bowness was considered too far from the city.



*Glenbow Archives. 1913 photo of players waiting to go on court at CTC's new Scarboro location. The guy in black must have been a spectator as it was strictly all white. Note the car behind.*



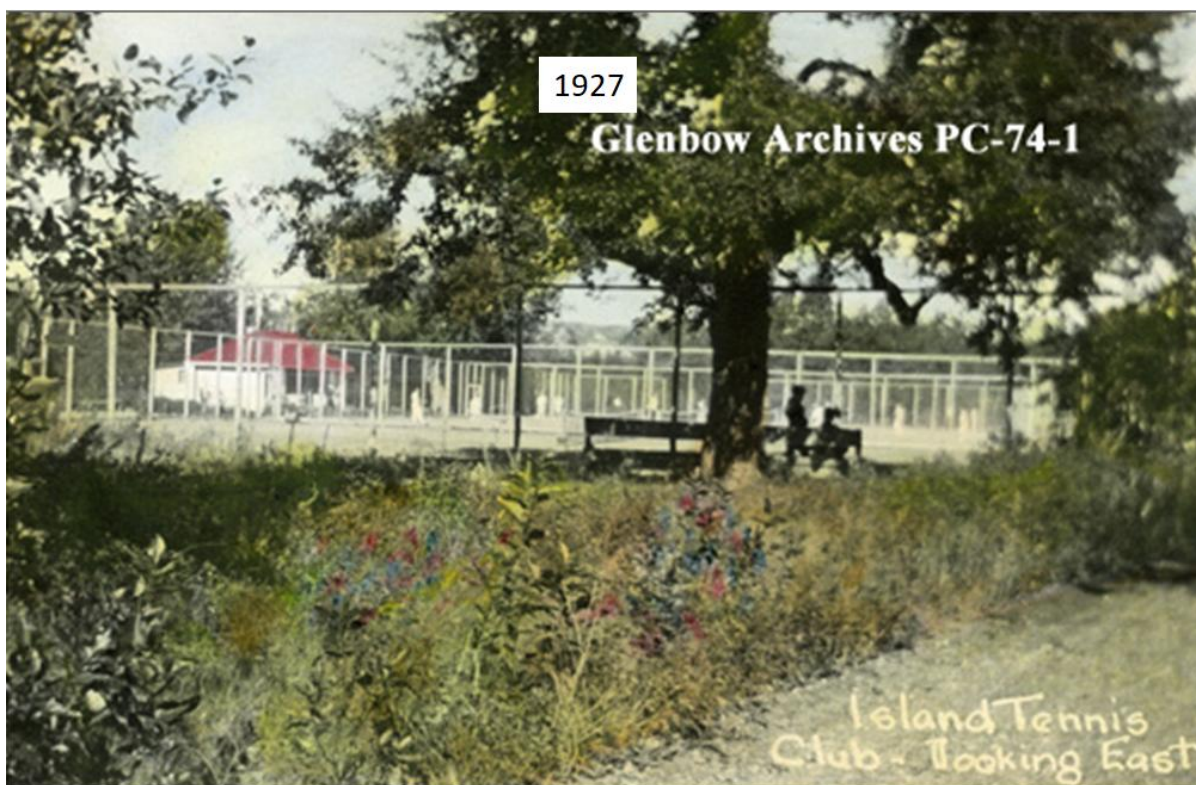
*Glenbow Archives. 1914 Photo of tennis courts at Calgary Golf & Country Club's location on east bank of the Elbow River.*



#### 4.3 1914 - 1970

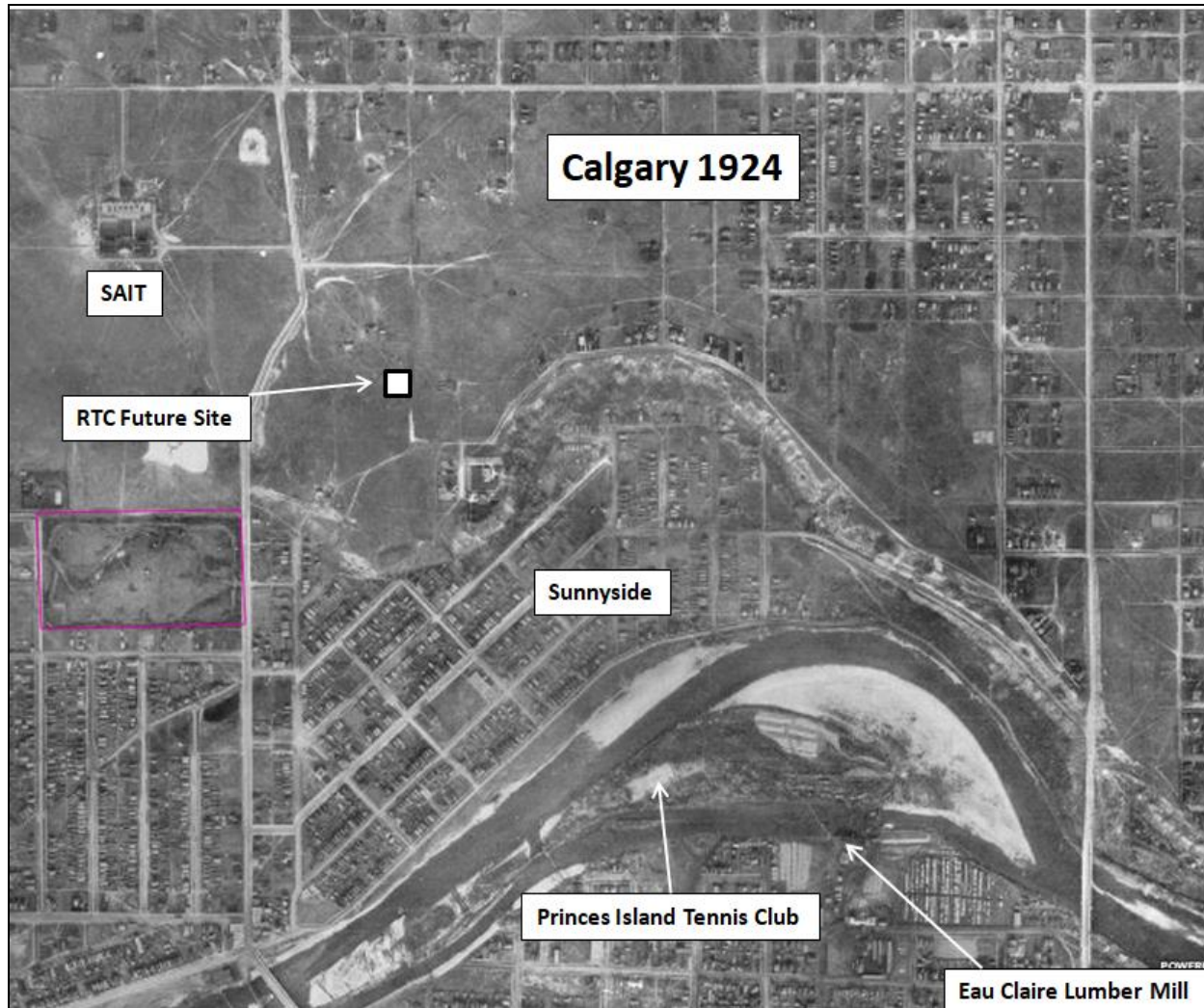
The economic boom in Calgary came to an abrupt end with the start of WWI. There was no post-war boom as anticipated. The population only increased 1.5-fold over the first two decades after the war. Several decades without new immigration would allow Calgary to establish its own identity from the pre-WWI mélange of Easterner Canadians, Americans, and European immigrants. It shed the pre-1897 British outpost culture and the pre-WWI American Wild West Boom Town culture. Calgary became like the prairie towns portrayed in Sinclair Ross's stories, though retaining a wider streak of self-reliance from its American heritage than the rest of Canada.

In 1915, the City built its first tennis court at City Hall next to the Police Building. The City accounts show they spent \$10.84 for court maintenance in 1917. The court was turned into a parking lot in 1928 when usage declined.



*Glenbow Archives. Princes Island Tennis Club in 1927 photo. Tennis was played on Prince's Island as early as 1884. Scene looks very lush and with a good sized clubhouse. It must have been a nice place to play on a Sunday after church with an English tea later in the afternoon.*

Following WWI, the AYPAs courts on Prince's Island became the Prince's Island Tennis Club. The courts on the island were in use up to WWII. In 1926, Princes Island Club merged with CLTC as there were problems with the lease and they left the island site. The aerial photo below is from 1924 and shows the courts located where the stage area on the island is now located. A major flood in 1915 that took out the old Centre St. bridge and flooded Sunnyside must have inundated the tennis courts, too. Note how in the photo the "island" goes upriver as far as the Louise Bridge. There were a few houses on Crescent Road in 1924, but the future site of RTC was treeless prairie.



*City Archives. Calgary aerial photo from 1924 with location of Prince's Island Tennis Club shown. What was to become Rosedale had only a few houses, but these include two narrow lot houses that are still standing immediately east of RTC. The houses present to the north of the RTC site were torn down when Rosedale school was built in the 1950s. The east-west trail running along what is now 13th Ave. NW was a short-cut dirt track used to get to a newly built SAIT that housed a teaching school.*

With men back from the war, there was a higher demand for sports facilities. Tennis was part of the increase in recreation facilities, but instead of private clubs, the activity was in the creation of public courts. In 1920, the City provided temporary tennis courts on St. George's Island and Riley Park. St. George's Island was the principal city park at that time with a pavilion and weekend band concerts. City accounts show \$149 was spent on tennis out of a total parks and recreation spend of \$90,730.10; tree planting and cemeteries were the largest expense items.

In 1921, City Parks built tennis courts at the new park they were developing in Crescent Heights to the west of Centre Street (adjacent to Crescent Heights School today). These courts were at the north end of the park, bordering on the lane behind 12th Ave. NW - they may be the dark rectangle in the air photo above. They also made improvements to the St. George's Island courts.

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

In 1922, Sunset Tennis Club built a court on City land at Mewata Park with the understanding it became City property; a second court was added in 1923. That same year, two additional courts were added in Crescent Heights. They were constructed using ash and clay for the same cost that the City spent constructing an all season hut at the zoo. The courts were leased in 1926 to the North Hill Community Association along with park land for curling and hockey. This was the City's preferred management choice - let the clubs and communities do the maintenance. By 1927, the City Hall tennis court was the only one still maintained by the City and it was closed the next year.

In 1923, the East Calgary Tennis Club was given the courts at St. George's Island on condition that the club bore the maintenance costs. The City Athletic expenses for that year was \$4,427, with \$3,526 to fastball, \$55 to tennis, and the rest to baseball, cricket and swimming pools. Cricket was slowly dying as a sport in Calgary, though 3,000 spectators came out for a match in Riley Park against a touring Australian team.

In 1924, Reader arranged for 39 acres to be set aside as park along the Elbow River. This land became Stanley Park with tennis courts installed in 1931. A 1925 tabulation shows public recreation facilities comprised of 7 tennis courts, 1 golf course (Shaganappi), 4 cricket pitches, 3 baseball diamonds, and 17 playgrounds.

In 1927, the Riley Park Tennis Club began play at 5th Ave. & 11th St. NW.

In 1929, Reader stated his very progressive for the times recreation philosophy in his annual report to the City. The timing could not have been worse, as the 1930s Depression loomed - a time of slashed budgets, but ironically with a lot progress in developing the City's parks as the work force was three times larger because men were required to work for their relief payment if unemployed and were seconded to Parks.

*"during the past two decades there has been a tremendous awakening to the value of play as a great force in life of the individual and community .... as necessary for the well being of the adult and child ... the City must meet these demands"*

In 1930, CTC found itself facing severe financial problems, and ownership of its property passed to the City of Calgary. An agreement was reached under which the City leased the site back to the club. With slight alterations, this agreement has continued ever since.

In 1931, the City prepared a site in Ogden Park for tennis courts that were eventually built in 1934. That same year, the Rotary Club created recreation grounds in east Crescent Heights Park, then called Mount Pleasant. Alan Zakrison, a local historian, who has written extensively on Crescent Heights history relates:

*" A January 1931 letter Reader sent to the Rotary Club includes an estimate of \$800 for site prep for bowling green, basketball, tennis or baseball area. So I am thinking the tennis courts first went in when the Rotary Club developed the model playground during 1931/32. There were just 3 courts at first, but when Reader prepared his June 1936 diagram of the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Recreation Grounds, there were 5 courts with a small "shelter" on the south side, behind court 3."*

This is the origin of the Mt Pleasant Tennis Club, though it is not clear whether at first they were City courts or Club courts with a lease agreement. A tennis tournament was held on the site in 1932. The current clubhouse was erected in 1952.

Other clubs were the Excelsior at 12th Ave. and 8th St. SW, the Foothills on 17th Ave. SW, and the Scarboro Community Club in the ravine in which Crowchild Trail now runs.

Glencoe Club was founded in 1931 by the residents of Elbow Park as a family sports club with tennis as one of the original sports. Initially, there were no tennis professionals and no leagues. The Glencoe's original court surfaces were finished with crushed Drumheller red shale, converted to hard courts in 1976. Outdoor lighting was installed on two courts by 1959. The original six courts, "surrounded by beautiful gardens and trees" were located where the west entrance parking lot is today. The Club burned down in 1962. In a later facility expansion phase, the courts were moved to the building's roof, first outdoors with a rubberized playing surface and in the 1980s, indoors when roofed.

In 1933, sites for 3 tennis courts and a skating rink in Sunalta Park (an abandoned quarry) were leveled. The courts sank the next year as the backfill settled and were fixed and resurfaced with shale and cinders. That same year, the City at Roxboro Community's request, graded a site and tennis courts were constructed. The courts were abandoned in 1941. Reader laments in his annual report the high City investment and the subsequent loss - a shot across the bows of City politicians craving favour with local elites in communities and acceding to their requests.

There were other clubs active at that time in central Calgary that have since disappeared with development. Tennis peaked in the 1930s when there were between 60 and 70 courts in the City. Tennis participants had progressively expanded in Calgary to an everyman's sport with time - from the private clubs to the church courts to the public courts. CTC had a membership of 100 in 1940. Tennis continued to prosper up until the start of WWII, but then faded badly in the 1950s & 1960s.

There was no tennis construction undertaken during WWII. In 1949, Crescent Heights Community constructed 3 tennis courts, located where the courts are today, south of where the courts were located in the 1930s. In 1947, 2 hard courts were built at Hillhurst/Sunnyside Community, paid for by the community.

Tennis is not mentioned in the City annual athletic facility reports during the 1950s. Activity still continued at the private clubs, but it was not a sport taken up by the general public. The early 1960s, like the 1950s, were quiet times for tennis in Calgary. In 1962, the Winter Club built 4 shale courts as it expanded its facilities to become a multi-sport club and the Westwind Club (Lions club in NE) installed shale courts. The City operated only 12 courts in 1965, alongside 1 indoor swimming pool, 10 outdoor pools, 6 ball parks, 123 community parks with backstops, 98 community outdoor hockey rinks, 137 outdoor skating rinks, and 124 playgrounds.

The low participation in tennis was true all across Canada; children growing-up during those decades were playing organized hockey, soccer, baseball, and basketball. Sandlot baseball at schools led to more adult players and demand for more baseball diamonds. 1954 was the first year of Little League Baseball in Calgary. Tennis was not taught in the schools. Tennis had reverted to being an elite sport played at private clubs.

#### **4.4 1970s Tennis Boom**

After 30 years of modest growth and prosperity after WWII, economic boom times returned to Calgary in the 1970s. This was coincident with the third wave of tennis popularity.

The North American tennis boom of the 1970s was due to a combination of factors. In 1968, professional tennis players were first allowed to compete in the Grand Slams and Davis Cup. Additional



tournaments replaced barnstorming exhibitions and meant more players could make a living as playing professionals. Prior to 1968, tennis was seen as a wealthy country club sport.

Also in 1968, the US Open was broadcast for the first time and Wimbledon followed in 1969. Cable TV didn't exist, so televising the events on one of the three US networks available exposed a large audience to the sport. And while participation and spectatorship are separate factors, they do affect each other.

The late 1960s and early 1970s was a time when the Boomer Generation was emerging into adulthood. University enrollment was expanding and there was an expanding economy. There was a fitness craze and tennis was much more fun than jogging and was easier to organize than team sports. Technology improvements made tennis easier to play. The laminated wood racquet, developed in 1947 was replaced by the Wilson T2000 steel racquet in 1968. In 1976, the Prince oversize racquet with its larger sweet spot became popular. Graphite frames appeared in 1980.

When tennis boomed, it wasn't just a sport, it was a symbol. It was the only major professional sport in the public eye in which both men and women competed (and even against each other in the case of mixed doubles). At a time when tennis was popular anyway, and women's liberation was a huge cultural phenomenon in the U.S & Canada, tennis was like a symbol of the era. Not only were women playing sports, but they were being paid for it. At a time of women's lib, the press latched on to this, and even made it viable to stage publicity stunts like the Battle of the Sexes (still one of the highest rated tennis events ever; more in 5.1). Nowadays, women compete professionally in many sports, and the novelty has worn off. Curious how it always seems to be women who are the catalyst to the jumps in the popularity of tennis - 1873 founding, 1920s Lenglen professionalism, and 1970s equality?

The City Recreation Department took note of the increasing interest in tennis in its 1966 report:

*"A growing interest was observed in tennis and eleven public tennis courts were in operation during the summer months. For the first time, a municipal tennis instruction program was offered to the Public of Calgary for both children and adults. A part-time professional instructor was employed. This program proved to be very popular, with a registration figure of 408."*

### **4.5 1970 - 2021**

There were 403,190 people in Calgary in 1971, but the number of tennis courts had actually decreased from the 1930s. There are no further descriptions of tennis facilities in the Parks & Recreation reports until 1977, by which time there were 102 City tennis courts, with 23 located in the NW. Lesson registration was up four-fold from 1966. Parks continued to add tennis courts as the city grew, but the lesson participation numbers were declining, starting in 1980. By 1982, there were 154 public courts. By 1991, this had increased to 162 courts. Many of these courts by the mid-1990s were not used much and the City did not maintain them very well, causing even less use.

There were a couple of "character" city owned courts that were interesting to play on because of the location. In Inglewood there were three courts hidden away where you could usually get on when the more popular courts were busy. The next door property was a practice building for the Calgary Fire Department. Sometimes there would be smoke billowing out, fire trucks arriving with sirens wailing and firemen scrambling about as you were playing your game. The malty smells from the Calgary brewery enhanced the atmosphere further.

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

Another 3 courts were in Haultain Park at 14th Ave. & 2nd St. SW in the Beltline. On a weekend morning during Stampede week there would be smashed bottles on the court and people sleeping-off a bender on the grass. It was nicknamed the "Ghetto" by the local tennis players. During the day there was no problem, but you wouldn't want to be caught there after dark. Dan Adams, a member of the Ghetto crew, recalls:

*"For a couple of years the City had an idea for making tennis 'pay to play'! You had to put a loonie in the front of the net post and it would activate a winch to tighten the net cord so you could play. Well, Jim had his own system - a couple of bungee cords, a boat winch and a C clamp and we were in business. We had a great time at the Ghetto. The group migrated to Rosedale eventually and can still be found playing on Sunday mornings forty years later."*

CTC's 9 courts & Mt. Pleasant's 5 courts were converted from shale to asphalt-based hard courts in the early 1970s. CTC lost a bubble they had erected in the late 1970s because of neighbour issues. CTC membership grew to 800 by 1980. At CTC, lights were installed in the mid-1980s. Three courts were converted back to clay in 1991.

In January 1973, the Glenmore Racquet Club opened with 5 indoor and 4 outdoor courts. It had squash courts, a swimming pool, and a restaurant. It was a really nice facility, the first with indoor courts in Calgary. The club closed in the mid-1980s when the oil industry experienced hard times.

Rico Policarpo, an Italian immigrant, was a coach at CTC and for the City's summer evening novice lessons program. He later founded the Tennis Academy near Glenmore Park, moving the tennis bubble from CTC in 1979. His son, Alex, lives in Rosedale and operates the Tennis Academy, renamed Aforza in 2021, now. He has provided coaching for Rosedale juniors the past few years. Another tennis bubble was erected at the university.

The Winter Club, Point McKay, Glencoe and Edgemont indoor courts came in the 1980s.

Tennis gear could be bought at shops attached to the large clubs or in general sporting goods shops where you took your chances getting informed advice from the staff. One of the go-to specialized shops for decades was 'What's Your Racket'. Dan Adams recalls:

*"My first shop opened in 1980 as Frost Sports Ltd. It was in an old house on 17 Ave. & 8th St. SW. I lived in the back and did ski service in the front. The Racket Shop in the house next door was owned by Julio Policarpo. He later moved closer to CTC, where his brother Rico was the pro. So I changed my shop's name to 'What's Your Racket' and started doing racket and ski business for the next 35 yrs. We moved shop a couple of times, also closer to CTC. Over the years we sold skis & boots, rackets, footwear, bikes and service - ski bases & binding mounting in winter and racket stringing all year round. My business partner was my wife, Susan, a student I met when I was her tennis instructor. We really enjoyed the store and customers. The internet and the advent of online shopping killed the racket sales and we shut down a few years ago."*

The only shop comparable today is Racquet Central. Rolf Martin started this business in 2002 in a small shop across from the Safeway in Sunnyside - very convenient for RTC players. Today they are still going strong and are located in South Calgary.

In 2017, the Osten and Victor Alberta Tennis Centre opened with 5 indoor courts and 8 outdoor courts. It was built for \$10mm from donations on City donated land in Acadia. One aim is to provide a facility

for training promising juniors that cannot afford to be members of the private clubs. Their membership reached facility capacity in 2020. They have hosted ATP Challenger Tour events.

As of 2021, the City managed 162 courts spread out across the city. A number only slightly above the 154 courts they managed in 1983 when the City population was 624,000 people versus the 1.3 million it is today. It is not clear if the City's number includes courts managed by Clubs that are located on City land, such as CTC and Rosedale. If not, this would add another 40 courts to the total. An estimated 30 courts around the city are operated by private clubs such as the Winter Club, Glencoe Club and Edgemont.

It is interesting to speculate on where Calgary tennis will change in the future. Calgary seems to have reached a balance between demand and available courts as of 2021. Calgary's indoor courts all seem to be near full capacity during the winter, but the business case for building additional affordable courts may not be viable. Of the established indoor clubs, the Winter Club has plans for additional indoor courts in their facility master plan.

The Calgary tennis scene seems healthy, judging by 2019 activity, the last pre-Covid year. The established clubs have healthy memberships; only Edgemont seems to suffer as tennis is the poor cousin to gym memberships. The Inter-Club competition had a record number of teams. There are regular adult and junior Alberta Tennis Association tournaments.

The one vehicle that should be driving greater tennis activity, but isn't, are the courts associated with community centres. Many of these courts are now shared with pickle ball activities. Oakridge, Wildwood and Rosedale are examples of Calgary clubs that are run by community associations. It is a puzzle why more communities with courts don't have local players interested in forming a club instead of just drop-in play for privately arranged matches. A club could organize leagues and collect a small fee for windscreen purchase as a start. The City would certainly support communities taking over the maintenance and operation of the courts.

The Calgary weather and the modest number of junior players seem to be the limiting factors to tennis growth in the city. Not much can be done about the weather other than indoor play, and that solution is too expensive for many. As to more juniors taking up the game, perhaps there will be a new tennis wave generated by the success of the current crop of Canadian women & men professional players.

## 5. Rosedale Tennis Club Story

### 5.1 RTC Founding 1970

RTC was founded in 1970 with the first year activity consisting of fund raising, organizing, and lining up a contractor to start building the courts late in the year. 1971 was the first year of play. At that time, Rosedale had a population of 1,800 in a city of 391,000. Dalhousie Community was being developed on the City's NW limits. There were winter indoor tennis programs at the Big Four Building at Stampede and at QEII, Western Canadian, and Crescent Heights Schools. The few City outdoor courts were crowded and often in poor shape. Rosedale residents played at the Crescent Heights public courts.

In 1970, there were a lower number of courts in Calgary than in the 1930s. The North American resurgence of tennis that started in 1968 had reached Calgary. Other than Mt. Pleasant Tennis Club and the Winter Club, there were no clubs north of the Bow River. RTC was founded in a climate of increasing tennis interest and a shortage of facilities.

David Mouat (1970 VP) and John Faulkner (1970 President) were the two founders of RTC. Each advanced funds to supplement the money already raised to finance the construction of 3 tennis courts behind the community centre. They were looking for an activity to keep their children busy in summer, as the hockey rink did in winter. A hockey arena proposal had earlier been considered and rejected by the Rosedale Community Board.

The area back of the hall where the courts are located today was then used as a kids skating rink in winter - the skate pond berm is still present as a rise in the ground just outside the tennis courts southern fence. The RCA lease from the City extends only a few metres south of the fence.



*1953 photo of the brand new community centre and skaters on the rink where the tennis courts are now located. From Rosedale Stories.*

Greg Mouat is the only member of RTC with a 50 year continuous membership, beginning as a junior within a family membership. Greg recalls this about his father, David, one of the two principal founders:

*"Dad is the best human being I have ever known, he always had time for other people and was always helping someone. He was also very hard working. When I was young he was just getting started in the financial planning business and was working all the time. Monday to Friday he would work all day, come home for dinner and then go out for 7 and 9 o'clock appointments. He also had appointments every Saturday morning and if necessary afternoon as well. Whenever he was not working he always had time to play with me and my siblings, and he made a skating rink in our backyard every winter.*

*A few years after we moved to Rosedale (1964 I think), tennis was starting to show up on the radar in the sports world. The summer before the Rosedale courts were built some of the neighborhood kids (Les Bondar (perennial Rosedale club champ), Kevin Brown, Tony Davis, Brent Kearl, and myself), had started to play on the courts at Crescent Park. Dad thought it would be a good idea to build courts in Rosedale Park and he got together with John Faulkner and they got the job done."*

Jackie Nodwell, widow of John Faulkner (died 1992), was interviewed about the founding of RTC. The family lived on Crescent Road. She recalls:

*"Just Dave Mouat and John led the effort. They put some money up and fundraised from others. It was all pretty casual. The funds advanced were not reimbursed. She remembers that time as a change in generations within Rosedale. That the school was in trouble as enrollment was declining and that there weren't the community sports activities for kids available as there had been a decade earlier. There were 3 boys in her family. John was a real go-getter. He was instrumental in resurrecting the hockey program and rink at Rosedale. He provided the tractor that was used for cleaning the ice. He also started-up the soccer program at Rosedale; recruiting two parents that actually knew the rules of the game as coaches. Jackie remembers buying the soccer jerseys and sewing on a Rosedale patch that they made up. John was a modest man that aimed at getting things accomplished, preferring to work in the background within the community. Ironically, the family did not use the club much because they bought a summer place and were out of town for two months. Jackie did not play tennis before RTC and took her first lessons there and played in the ladies programs. She continued to play at the family summer cottage and in winter played at the Glencoe."*

Both the Mouat and Faulkner families were awarded lifetime RTC memberships.

RTC Meeting Minutes from October & November 1970 lay-out plans for a membership drive and report on the progress of the court construction. There was a \$30 initiation fee (to pay-off court construction costs) and a \$5/year annual fee. Richard King was the Club President for 1971. The Club had 50 memberships the first year. The courts cost \$10,000 to construct and were financed by a \$4,000 bank loan (through RCA), \$4,000 from donations and \$1,600 from the City. In the first year, problems arose that have continued to the Present Day - Court #3, closest to the lane, sagged and was pooling water. The contractor wouldn't agree to fix it, requiring the Club to raise additional funds. There were neighbour complaints about cars parking on the grass and backboard noise.

## **5.2 RTC in 1970s**

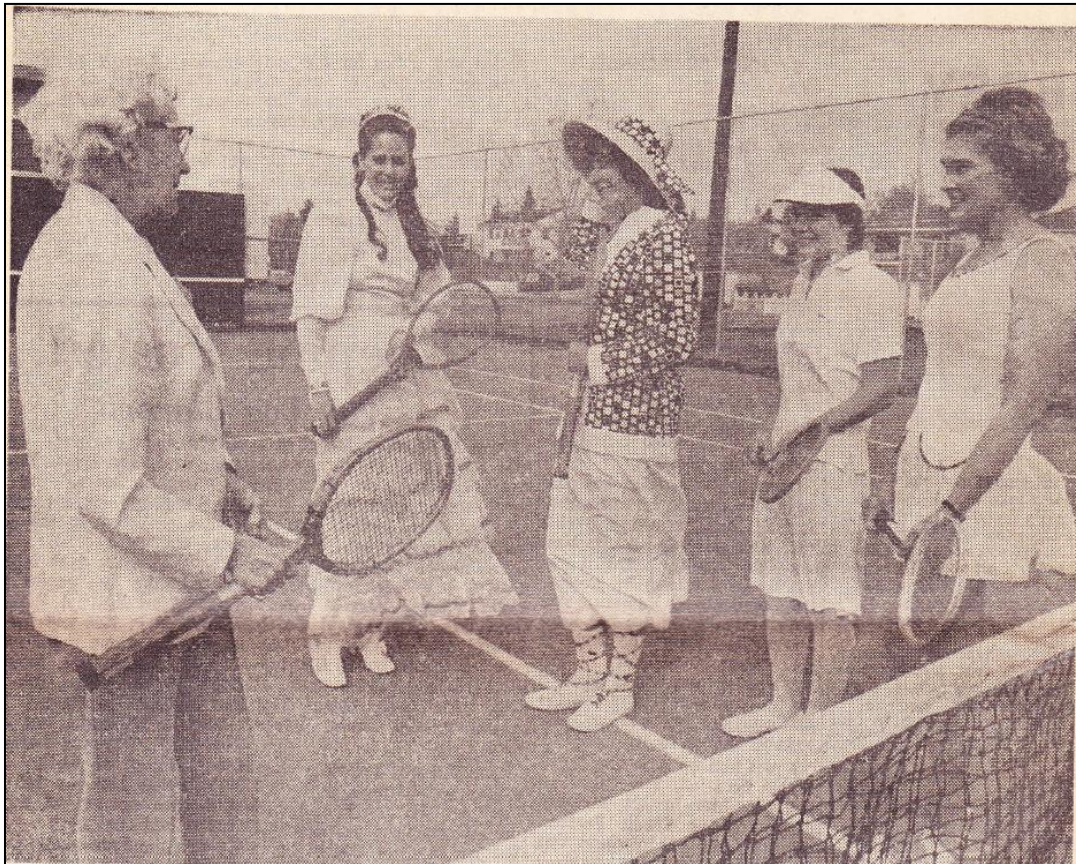
The Club was an instant success as membership doubled to 95 in 1972. White clothing was preferred, but not mandatory (unlike the more established clubs, where whites lasted well into the decade).



## Rosedale Tennis Club History

Rosedale could claim to be a year-round club, as play continued in the winter at Crescent Heights School each week.

Marjorie Collinge Eustance was a 16 time Calgary singles champion, a 9 times Provincial champion and a Dominion tennis champion between 1922 to 1956. She was the first tennis player to be admitted to the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame in 1980. The family lived at 1423 7th St. NW in 1956. She was supportive of RTC in its early years, helping with coaching. That is her reminiscing on early lady's tennis outfits she must have worn in the picture below.



**IN RETROSPECT.** Looking back over 100 years of tennis means reviewing 100 years of women's fashions. Marjorie Eustace (left) Alberta's all-time top woman player, now retired, smiles at the replicas of bygone costumes. The models are (left to right) Carol Keller, wearing the cumbersome style of the 1870s, with tiered full-length skirt complete with bustle; Simone King models a black, white and shocking pink costume of

1915 that reveals white stockings and running shoes, hinting at shorter skirts to come; Ivy Morgan sports a sun visor introduced by the famous Helen Wills in the 1930s. Note the white stockings and below-the-knee skirt. Kathleen McWhae represents the 1970s in her brief white tennis dress, with colored piping. This year color is creeping onto the courts in both men's and women's clothes.

—The Albertan, Roger Pierce

*1973 Albertan Newspaper Story on RTC (note all-whites, wooden racquets, and backboard)*

Also in the photo above is Kathleen McWhae. She was an Australian who grew-up as a neighbour to Margaret Court and was a coach in Calgary, including Rosedale. She also wrote up a history of tennis in Calgary at this time that I have sourced for some of this document (see References). Interestingly, the newspaper article above discusses the upcoming match between Margaret Court and Bobby Riggs and

she forecasts a dominating win for Margaret. We know how that turned-out, as it was left up to Billy Jean King to put Riggs in his place as depicted in the 2017 movie Battle of the Sexes.

By 1973, the Club was thriving with a membership of 150. The bank loan of \$4,000 was paid down to \$311 owing. There was lighting of some sort, but this must not have worked well because it was sold-off the next year. The Club joined the City Inter-Club league. The increased membership led to constant backboard noise issues and to conflict with juniors for the precious evening and weekend court time - a junior was suspended for bad behavior. There was a very active daytime women's group with arranged daycare services. Very specific court time priority rules were drawn-up. The courts, especially court #3, continued to have settling issues. A David Sagert Music Concert at SAIT raised \$1,204 towards court repair.

Greg Mouat recalls:

*"The club was quite active right from the start. Not as many members as we have now, but they were all keen. It was a fun club to be part of, a lot of great people.*

*We never had separate junior and adult club championships, although the adults must have wished the person organizing the tournament had made separate draws as Les Bondar, a junior, won every year except once when he got sick the night before the semi finals and lost his semi in 3 sets."*



*In 1973, RTC staged a One Hundred Year Anniversary Tennis Fashion show. It was held at SAIT along with a musical performance as a fundraiser to pay off loans and raise money for court resurfacing.*

The following doggerel was composed by RTC players calling themselves "The Anonymous Pair" as part of the 100 year anniversary of lawn tennis celebrations:

The ladies in their long attire  
Hit balls across the lawn.  
They made no effort to perspire  
But rather to adorn.

And since the early rules were set  
They have remained the same  
With "love", "deuce" and even "let"  
Still used to score the game.

A hundred years and more have fled,  
And players have got faster.  
Now ladies blast the ball so hard  
Some men have faced disaster.

And now let those who play the game  
Extol it to the skies,  
In gratitude for what it's done  
To benefit their lives.

So now a hundred years have passed  
It seems quite safe to say,  
Like Calgary city and her past  
Love games are here to stay.

The RTC courts were resurfaced in 1975 at a cost of \$6,800 using \$2,500 of Club funds and the rest borrowed from RCA that was paid back in 1976. Rosedale won the 1976 Inter-Club C championship, though they played a lot of juniors; something that is not allowed now. Meeting minutes show junior behavior and court #3 water pooling continued to be issues.

Carol Gerein was a member in the mid-1970s and her husband, Bob, was an avid player and on the RTC Board. At the time they lived behind the courts on 7a St. NW. Bob was maybe a bit too keen:

*"One summer we had guests staying with us, and Bob and the male guest went out to the courts to play. The female guest went to bed, leaving me to make supper and look after our infant son. I couldn't cope with doing both, so I walked onto the court while Bob and partner were playing and handed him the baby. Then I left and went home to make supper. You can imagine how much tennis they got to play from then on."*

Membership stayed strong through the 1970s, with 99 memberships in 1979. Non-resident memberships were limited to keep total players at about 250. A clubhouse idea was first raised in 1976, something RTC is still working-on in 2021. Windscreens were looked at, but not bought because of the cost. Rosedale hosted an Alberta Tennis Association "C" Tournament for a few years, but this was dropped by 1980 because very few RTC members participated for the amount of volunteer time required. A pit was dug outside the SW fence corner to assist in disposing the water pooling on Court #3.



The courts were resurfaced in 1980 at a cost of \$5,300. Membership fees increased to \$10 in 1979 with an initiation fee of \$40 for new members.

RTC Presidents changed every year from 1970 to 1976 until Howard Kearn served from 1977 to 1979. Looking over the Board names from this decade, Greg Mouat is the only one who is still an active club member in 2021 (see Appendix B).

### 5.3 RTC 1980s & 1990s

Tennis popularity in Calgary decreased in the 1980s, as it did all over North America. New sports/activities were attracting young people. RTC followed the same trend. RTC membership dropped to 50 - 60 families for the 1980s and to 30 - 40 families for the 1990s (see chart below). Membership fees increased from \$10 in 1980 to \$30 in 1991, and to \$60 in 1997 to counter the decreased membership numbers. Some players were choosing to play year-round at the indoor courts, such as Winter Club & Tennis Academy, instead of joining an outdoor club for the summer. Demographic data for Rosedale shows the population declined by 16% between 1970 and 1980. Likely due to the older children of the large 1950s families leaving home. Rosedale families were less inclined to join without younger children interested in playing.

Pat Lemke was President from 1980 to 1982 and after that there was a different President every year up until 1991, when Wayne Tinker served from 1991 to 1997 and then Chris Unsworth from 1998 to 2002. Nancy and Mike Weedle are 2021 club members who served on the 1980s Boards. From the 1990s Boards, the Weedles, Steve Bolger and Jeff Weber (once his knee is rebuilt) are still active in the Club in 2021.



*Tennis and hockey gear was stored in a shed that sat along the east fence. The storage area built under the community building back deck replaced the shed in 2013. Kids often used the shed roof as access to climb the fence; sometimes they would be unable to climb back out from the locked courts.*

Alma and Walter McLachlan were involved with the Club for many years and were awarded honorary memberships for their services. Alma lived to 106 years in age, passing away just in 2021. David Paterson remembers playing Walter in the early 1980s:

*Playing a match with Walter near the end of his time at the Club resulted in a long duration set because as his short term memory faded he took to writing down the score on a piece of paper he kept in his shirt pocket after every point: 0-15, 15-15, .... But this did not deter him from signing-up for the singles ladder every Spring.*

New families moved into Rosedale starting in the early 1980s and the population grew back to peak in the year 2000. Many of these families have stayed in Rosedale until the Present Day, as shown by the community's mode age group in census results increasing from 24-44 in 1989 to 59-64 today.



*A 1987 photo where whites are still the standard tennis gear. The racquet heads have increased in size from the 1973 photos. Notice the knee and leg braces to go with the white hair; an association that continues to this day.*





*1980s. Randall Pardy serving in all white tennis gear. There were no wind screens, the court was green & red in colour, and there was an annoying curb around the court perimeter to bounce back ball into play under your feet. The poplars along the lane are half their 2021 size. So are the garages. The playground slide is full of kids in the photo, but was later removed as too dangerous ( nobody consulted the kids).*

RTC Meeting Minutes show problems with non-members using the courts and shoe tags were used to control the problem. Court 3 was repaired in 1983. The Club finally changed the dress code in 1984 from "whites" preferred. Backboard construction proposals in the 1980s were dropped due to neighbour objections because of noise. It is uncertain when the 1971 backboard was removed, but the neighbours must have had long memories. In 1985, club bylaw changes were made so that RTC became part of RCA as an activity instead of an independent club.

In 1986, windscreens were purchased for the north, west and south sides - a neighbour complained for a reason now lost with time. A metal barrier was installed along the west fence line to inhibit poplar tree roots cracking the surface of court #3. Two poplars along the west lane were removed in 1992 . The poplars not only ruined the courts, but the fluff from the male trees each Spring covered the courts.



*Les Bondar (multiple times Club Champion) and Harold Kearl in front of a signboard that was located on the inside of the east fence near the gate. Harold was RTC President from 1977-79. Once the RTC website was set-up in 2007, the Rules Board came down. Judging by the vintage of the racquets, the photo is from the early 1980s. Photo from Rosedale Stories.*



*1980s Beer Tournament. Front Row - Nancy Weedle, Rob Guy, & Jackie Sheppard. Back Row -Pauline Jones, Al Scheibner, Nikki Ross, Randall Parady, Deb Kromm, and Dietre Kromm. Notice the baseball backstop in the background and grass where patio is now located.*

## Rosedale Tennis Club History

Nancy & Mike Weedle are still RTC members in 2021 and provide their recollections of their family's involvement with RTC:

*We first learned about the Rosedale tennis club when we were living nearby in Hillhurst in 1981 (later moving into Rosedale). We had been invited to a music night at the Rosedale community hall one Friday evening in the summer. That night we saw the 3 tennis courts behind the hall and inquired about membership. That started our 40 year long membership in the club.*

*We became actively involved with the small membership at the time. Nancy eventually helped with membership distributing different coloured shoe tags each year and collecting membership dues. Mike went from maintenance man in 1987 to president in 1988 and then back to maintenance man the next year. A position he kept for many years. I guess the Club must have been very hard up in finding presidential candidates in 1988.*

*Even though our membership was small, we had many fun annual tournaments. One of the most successful and well attended was the annual beer tournament. You earned one point for drinking a beer and one point for winning a game. Two senior members, Alma McLaughlin and her husband Walter usually were victorious. While the younger players were focused on drinking beer, Alma and Walter solidly won a number of games against the rest of the stumbling drunks. Undoubtedly, this was one of the more popular tournaments of the summer.*

*For some reason, the Rosedale Tennis Club decided to join many of the city clubs and host open 'C' tournaments again in the mid 1980's, I believe. The Club's organizing committee spent a considerable amount of time setting-up and running these tournaments. Players had to be ranked by Alberta Tennis. During the tournaments, we had a couple of strange events occur. A player by the name of Lanny Gold (he worked as an entertainment clown in his spare time) entered and caused quite a stir. He arrived wearing a funny knit hat with head phones to relax before playing. That was unique at the time. He had some magic elixir drink that he would consume during the match and he would let out a massive grunt with every stroke. His ball had considerable spin and he liked to lob it high over the net on each stroke. He was very difficult to play against and more talented players succumbed to his style of play, often losing matches due to frustration. I remember one player, Tom Hong, decided if he had to play Lanny he would stay calm and persevere. He succeeded that year and Lanny Gold\* walked away with Club members wondering who would face him the following year. Another year, a young lad of 12 years entered the tournament and succeeded in winning each and every game. He came from Rico's Academy with his Dad and coach. All we remember is that he played very impressively for his age and his racket was almost as big as he was.\*\**

RTC was not eligible for City grants to help fund court resurfacing because Club bylaws restricted non-residents joining when membership was over 150. This was a restriction written for the 1970s-sized membership numbers. The bylaw was changed in 1991. In 1994, Tomko resurfaced the courts,

\*Lanny wrote a book "The Unwritten Rules of Tennis" that you can still find online, if you wish to find out what made him so successful.

\*\*A junior coming out on top sounds like the 2020 RTC Men's Singles Championships, the battle of the Adams, when a junior joined the Club to continue play after Covid-19 closed the indoor clubs.

experiencing lots of issues with grass and bumpers. A dry well located along the lane outside the south-west corner of the courts was finally dug by the City after several years delay. This is still where water drains from the courts in 2021.

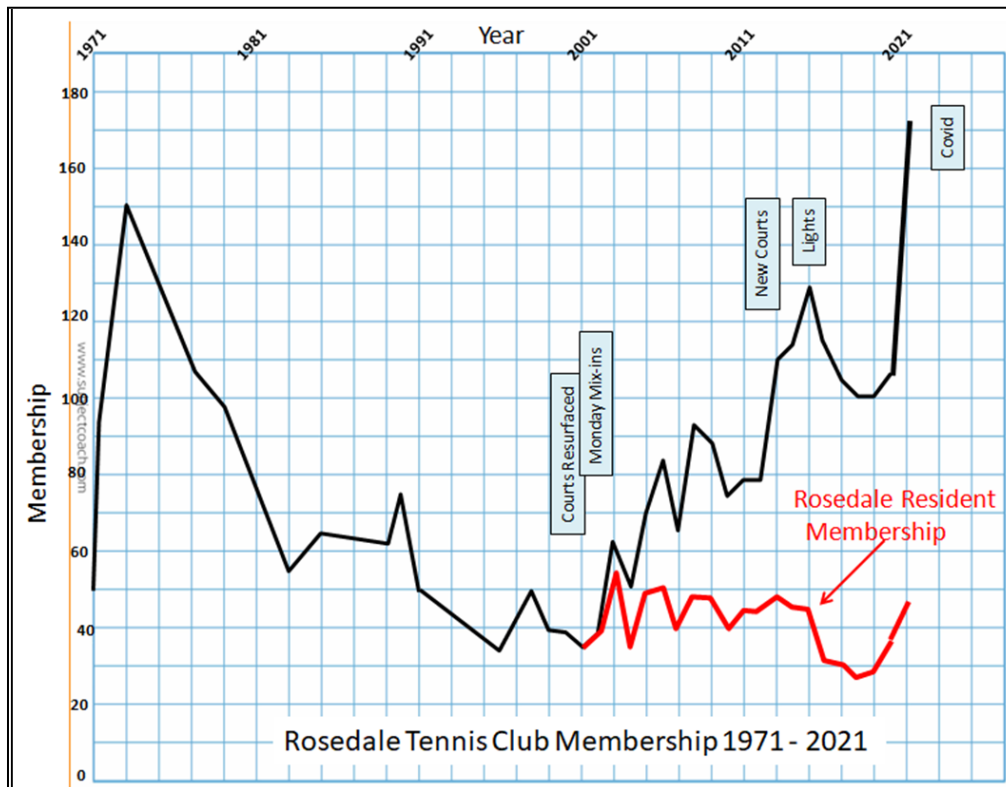


Chart of membership numbers over the past 50 years. There were few non-resident members prior to 2000. Since then, the number of resident memberships has declined and non-residents members have become the majority. Note the Covid-19 induced spike in 2020 & 2021.

### 5.4 RTC 2000 - 2021

The Club was not "healthy" at the end of the 1990s. Membership was at a low of 40 as interest in tennis from Rosedale residents diminished. Some of this was due to the community's adult population becoming progressively older and some of it was due to the sport not attracting beginners as it did in the 1970s. Young people who were introduced to the sport as kids and then took-it up again as young adults did not live in Rosedale; they were attracted to clubs like CTC where there was an active social scene for meeting new people. Many of the RTC memberships were taken-out for juniors to participate in lessons, but the parents did not play. There were only a few adult members that were keen on playing multiple times a week and they needed to arrange their matches privately as attempts to start a drop-in evening and ladder play were not successful. All this would begin to change in the early 2000s.

The courts were resurfaced in 2000 using funds raised at a Casino, but that did not boost the low membership numbers. Court #3 would need resurfacing again in 2004 because of cracks due to the poplar trees along the lane (the two remaining poplars along the west lane were finally removed in 2008). A healthy club was the primary goal of the new 2003 Club Board, with meeting minutes listing the following objectives as a priority:

- Increase membership numbers
- Increase court usage and enrich the Community



- Get new people involved

It took a few years, but each of these objectives was eventually achieved. A major factor in the success was the continuity and leadership in the Club Executive from 2003 onward to allow for long range planning and engagement. Ron Beugin became President in 2003 and remained in this position until 2013 (still on the Board in 2021). He also was serving as Lifecycle Director on the RCA Board for this period, spearheading the refurbishment and additions to the community building. Several other Board members over this period also served for greater than 5 year terms - Sarah Widdowson (lessons), Jeff Weber (VP & Inter-Club), Nicola Stevens (Social), Phil Stokes (Treasurer), Paul Edwards (Maintenance), Moira Smith (Social) and David Paterson (Inter-Club). Ron, Sarah, Phil, Paul, Moira, and David are all 2021 RTC members.

The Monday Night Mix-In, a mainstay of RTC, was started in 2002 after several years of trying. This event was the catalyst that allowed for the growth of the Club. The emphasis from the beginning was on the social aspects with most of the Board participating and mixing-in new comers as they arrived. Care was taken that beginners were placed with better players to make for competitive matches and everyone played in rotation. Phil wheeling his cooler of beer up the 7A St. lane for after-match drinks was another feature of the Monday Social Tennis.

The Box League of 2021 first started as a Ladder that took-off in 2005, after several years of trying, when it was set-up on the internet. By 2005, the Club was fielding two Inter-Club teams with some members joining the Club from bigger clubs just so they could play Inter-Club. Junior lessons were well supported. RTC allowed the Winter Club to host their junior outdoor tournament three successive summers. In return, one of their pros gave group lessons for a few Monday evenings. New social events, such as Wimbledon Teas, were added in 2009 by Moira Smith & Nicola Stevens, Social Directors, to the traditional Spring and Autumn pot-lucks.

Membership numbers had more than doubled to 86 by 2006. The increase was all due to non-resident memberships (see chart above). The growth began with RTC members who were also members at the Winter Club inviting playing partners to join RTC for the benefits of outdoor tennis, easier access to court times, chance to play Inter-Club, and the social events. A similar bump to RTC membership numbers occurred in 2012 when many players from Riverside joined-up, prompted by a RTC player. In recent years, Edgemont players are being added every year and conversely, RTC members are joining Edgemont for winter play. Many Mt. Pleasant players have joined during recent years for the league play.

### **5.5 Lessons**

The number of Rosedale families joining the Club has declined from about 50 in 2000 to 30 in 2019. Families with younger children will join for a few years by signing up for junior lessons, but drop-out when children become committed to other activities. Many of the younger families in Rosedale are two working professional households and lives are often too busy for adult leisure tennis. Nannies are often the ones dropping kids off at the courts for group lessons.

Lessons for adults were popular when the Club first started, many of the members never having played tennis before, but adult lessons have not been well-supported over the past 20 years. Stroke improvement coaching and cardio-tennis have been tried, but there is insufficient demand. There are very few beginners that join the Club, the natural cliental for lessons.

Junior lessons are organized after school for Elementary School children on Mondays in May and June. These were well subscribed up to about 2010 with classes full in three different age groups. Lessons were once a source of revenue for the Club. Week-long tennis camps in July were also popular up to the 12 year old age group. Attendance at junior lessons has been falling for the past 10 years. In 2017, the Club dropped the requirement of taking-out Club membership in order to sign-up in the hope this would boost sign-ups and entice families to join the Club. This incentive has not worked as Rosedale resident membership has decreased since 2017.



*Beginner lessons for the youngest junior age group.*

### 5.6 Courts

In 2012, the courts were fully replaced with a new asphalt base & playing surface as part of the RCA Lifecycle Plan (50% City funding) - largely due to Ron Beugin's dual role as RCA Lifecycle Director as well as RTC President, supported by Herb Fensury's work as RTC's maintenance director. The bumpers were removed from the court edges - these were a nuisance as balls would rebound onto the court and disrupt games in progress. It was Herb's vision that led to cement bases and wiring for on-court lighting being installed during court replacement, in the hope that lighting could be installed sometime in the future.

The area between the community building and the courts was landscaped in 2012 by RCA. The old tables placed on grass were replaced by patio pavers, a gravel perimeter was added to the north side of the courts, sturdy new picnic tables were bought and new shrubs were planted. Volunteers from the Club have taken it upon themselves to do the weeding and watering to keep the patio in good shape. The patio area is the setting for the social activities of the Club - evening bbqs/social tennis.

The Club initiated the Tennis Lighting Project in 2013 - a project that cost \$112,000 in total when completed in August 2015. Because lighting was an addition to the facility, City funding which is for maintenance projects only, was not available. Provincial financing in 2015 through a CFEP grant matched



funds raised from RTC membership fees, a dinner gala with Silent Auction (\$12,000), a Dick Haskayne Luncheon (\$2,000), RCA Casino funds (\$5,000) and a \$20,000 grant from the Calgary Parks Foundation (Calgary Flames). The lighting project would not have gotten traction if delayed even a year as Alberta's economy collapsed from 2014 - 2021 with low oil prices. RTC was very lucky in its grant application timing. The gala, held in August 2014, was attended by over 100 people and featured John Abraham's band, raffles, a silent auction, and food prepared by Moira Smith and helpers.



*Light It Up Fundraiser at Community Hall*

Prior to the tennis lighting installation in late 2015, for years the hockey lights along the east side of the courts were turned-around to provide evening lighting in August and September. This extended play by a couple of hours on the adjacent court, but could be hazardous as there was a strobe effect and it was not unusual to get hit with a ball. Rotating the hockey lights would cost the club \$450 each year.



*Rosedale resident and well known philanthropist Dick Haskayne with RTC's Herb Fensury at a 2014 Luncheon Fundraiser where he was the featured speaker. Dick even paid for the all the food and wine.*

In 2016, the landscaped gravel perimeter on the north side of the courts was extended to the other three sides. This was accomplished by a good turn-out of volunteers in a single day at a modest expense. Landscape cloth keeps down the weeds and grass from intruding onto the courts edges. Still, some weed roots have been embedded into court sub-layers forever and come back every year, no matter how much Round-Up is sprayed.



*First match under lights on Sept 17th 2015. Steve Bolger and Phil Stokes hitting.*

In 2017, light shields were installed over the west lane lights to meet the illumination specs the Club committed to in obtaining neighbour consents for the 2015 lighting installation. The tennis lights are on a timer and automatically shut-off at 10:30 pm. In the first six years of operation, the only repairs have been re-installing the caps on the poles a few times after a wind storm.

In 2016, RCA went online for membership registration and payment. This was later expanded to include Inter-Club and Doubles League fees. This has been so successful that the Membership Director position, which was the most time-consuming and frustrating Board position, was eliminated in 2020.

A website was created for the Club in 2007 and has been successful several times in attracting people new to the City and living nearby to join. The site is upgraded every year and includes history, court schedules, photo archives, and registration info. Occasionally there will be some confusion when someone signs-up and then is upset why their membership is not honoured when they turn-up at the posh Rosedale Tennis Club in Toronto; after an exchange of e-mails, their fee is reimbursed.

The new courts along with significant population growth in Calgary led to strong growth in membership, reaching a peak of 129 in 2015. The increase was due to an increase in non-resident new members, often friends of existing members. The economic slow-down in Calgary since 2015 has had an effect as membership has dropped and stabilized at 100-110, representing over 200 players. There are only a few juniors that play regularly. The adults are mostly in the 30 - 70 year age group. Evening play time is a priority for those working. There is a large retired group of players. There is a core keener group of about 40 players that use the courts 3 times a week, playing in the leagues, Inter-Club, and tournaments.

Both the 2020 and 2021 seasons were affected by Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. There were full lockdowns both winters when the infections spiked that extended into Spring. Play started later in the Spring, first with singles only, and later in June with doubles. Racquet bumps were used instead of handshakes at the end of the match. The first year, some matches played with everyone serving with their own set of balls and returning balls to the server without touching them with your hands. As it became clear that the virus was very unlikely to be passed by contaminated surfaces, most players were ok playing with one set of balls. The second year started with most players having at least one vaccine shot; racquet bumps continued to be the norm and players waited spaced-out in the patio area instead of on the benches along the court sideline. Inter-Club was cancelled both years. RTC social events in the Spring of both years were cancelled.

In 2021, the indoor clubs were closed for May and June and our membership reached 172 as players from these clubs sought outdoor clubs to play. CTC reached maximum capacity and closed membership. People were working from home through the pandemic and had more flexibility in their schedules. Consequently, RTC courts were busy most days with play from 8am to 10:30 pm. With so many people new to the Club there were some initial court hogging issues, but this got sorted eventually. With Inter-Club cancelled, RTC doubled registration for the evening doubles leagues and played leagues 4 evenings each week to accommodate more teams.

### **5.7 Inter-Club Competition**

Interclub competition has been played in Calgary since before WWI and on a challenge basis since the 1880s matches between the NWMP and the townspeople. RTC has always been the smallest or one of the smallest Calgary clubs fielding an Inter-Club team. RTC had a team entered in the league soon after its founding, winning the 3.0 championship in 1975. This win was with a team fielding a lot of junior-age players; the league changed the rules the next year to an adults-only league. RTC dropped-out of the league in the 1990s when club membership dropped and re-entered in 2004 when membership was on the upswing.

The league itself has seen an increase in the number of clubs participating in recent years with the bigger clubs in the last decade often fielding two teams in the 3.0 and 4.0 leagues. There are often 12 teams in the 3.0 & 4.0 leagues with the 5.0 league smaller and with only the big clubs fielding teams.

Participating on an Inter-Club team has attracted many new members to RTC over the years. Often these are players that can't make the larger club teams and will join RTC just to play in the league. An issue almost every year is players from the larger clubs dropping down a level, say from 4.0 to 3.0, when they aren't picked for the higher level team. This usually only lasts for one year, as it is not satisfying competition for the player, but then the next year it will occur at another club.



*2017 4.0 Inter-Club Runners-Up. Thalie Pham (captain), Annabelle Stevens, Kathy Conquergood, Kim Charbonneau, Khalid Masood, Wade Mills, Kathy Mills, Anthony Weir, & Michael Clarke. Three of the players in this photo who contributed to Rosedale's success in 2017 had moved from Calgary by 2019.*

Recently, RTC has fielded a 3.0 and a 4.0 team each year and 10 years ago, when the 4.0 league became too strong for RTC, we fielded two 3.0 teams - the two matches each season between the Rosedale A and Rosedale B teams were great fun, with a high level of razzing not usually found at Inter-Club. It became even more of an event when a bbq was arranged for the evening matches and all the roster players on both teams turned-out to cheer.

David Paterson was Inter-Club Director from 2004 to 2012, sharing responsibility with Jeff Weber. He recalls:

*In the first few years after entering the league again in 2004, it was really a challenge to field a team each week. The men were ok as we had 8 players signed-up for each team and could count on 3 players being available. But some years we played with only 6 women in total, split between the two teams. When vacations reduced the available players, we often spared 3.0 players onto the 4.0 team and played 3.0 matches with only 2 women. I remember Rebecca (moved to UK) and Jesse (moved to Canmore) as our warrior women, with both often playing matches twice a week for several continuous weeks. The other stalwarts were Annabelle Stevens (moved to Victoria), Moira Smith (2021 Social Director), Lois Pethwick (injured & retired), Laurie Polson (full time golf) and Nicola Stevens (retired when spouse, Jose, could not play anymore).*



*The captains of the league ranged from friendly, we are here to host you for a fun social evening to OCD fanatics. It would start in April with all the team captains meeting to arrange the league schedules and the larger clubs bickering over the rules and player eligibilities. RTC always gave all players on the team an equal number of matches through the season. A few clubs played with a core group of their best 6 players, and only played the rest of the team when spares were needed.*

*It is tough being a captain of one of the larger club teams, as you have so many players lobbying to play. Some teams kept detailed statistics and cut players on poor early season match results. For some captains, it became their life as they strategized on the best team to field against the opponent each week. I remember one of CTC's captains shielding her roster list when I was writing down the RTC player names on RTC's half of the draw so that I wouldn't have an advantage. She irritated her team players even more, as came out with a few beer after the match. She only lasted the one year.*

*RTC has been a strong supporter of Inter-Club. We hosted a mid-season bbq/friendly tournament in August for a couple of years. We received the best host award in 2012. In those days, the clubs provided beer & soft drinks and some chips with dip for the after match social. Elbow Park had a vegetable dip. Rico's served cheese dripped chips. But then Oakridge started taking their guests out for pizza after which the whole league upped their hosting game. RTC brings-in pizza now and the club changed the rules so that Inter-Club players pay for all the hosting expenses, instead of paying out of general funds.*

As the membership grew, the RTC 3.0 Inter-Club teams began to regularly make the play-offs. Alvin Ho & Kim Charbonneau provide the following story of RTC's epic 2013 3.0 League Championship Final match. The account gives the reader a feel for the passion and fun for players participating in Inter-Club:

*Rosedale Team "A" knew that it would be tough to win against the Mount Pleasant Tennis Club. In 2012, Team "A" lost to Mt Pleasant in the semi-finals (3-5) despite having home court advantage. Mount Pleasant went on to become 2012 Inter-Club champions.*

*Was Team "A" pleased with their 2012 results? Absolutely! Ending with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place win and being part of the final 4 teams had not happened in a long time. Could we have gone further? Perhaps. But for those who were part of that year's semi-final experience, it had left an impression that we will have to "do more" to win against such a strong opponent.*

*During their 2013 regular season, Mt. Pleasant enjoyed a fantastic year with an unbelievable win-loss record - only a single loss (4-4)\* throughout the entire regular season.*

*The 2013 team was even better than the 2012 championship team. In their semi-final match, Mt. Pleasant pounded the Rosedale Team "B" (7-1). Team "B" were not pushovers, first to qualify for the playoffs in a 12 team league and a few weeks earlier during league play, Team "B" beat Team "A" (4-4) in a tight battle.*

*Despite not having home court advantage (big advantage in Inter-Club), Team "A" managed to win their semi-final match against Elbow Park Tennis club on their home clay courts (6-2). However, it was not luck that got Team "A" to the finals. Several new players were added to the roster: Carsten Buehner joined*

\* In Inter-Club scoring, if the matches are tied at 4-4, then the winner is decided by total games won. This is often a heartbreaker as a team losing a set 0-6 instead of 2-6 can decide the match.



*the team with many years of playing tennis on Spanish clay courts. Kathy Conquergood, an Aussie, joined as a sub, but the captains played her as often as she was available as she had the best all-court game. Thalie Pham and Paul T., another Aussie, contributed to the team throughout the season. All these players played on the 4.0 team when it was formed the next year.*

*Interclub competition consists of 8 matches and often the final match will determine the outcome. That was the case in 2013. The first 6 matches were played to a draw (3W – 3L):*

- *Women's Doubles (Kim Charbonneau / Kathy Conquergood) – played together for the first time that season. Kim and Kathy secured a convincing win for the ladies doubles match-up.*
- *Men's Single (Steve Bolger) – The drama for this match was mostly off-court. Steve had a special and very simple mission: 1. Fly back to Calgary from San Francisco despite any flight delays. 2. Bring his tennis gear and change to his tennis outfit while heading over in time to play his singles match. He did just that - winning against their best men's single player who was undefeated all season.*
- *Ladies Single (Thalie Pham) –Thalie pulled a major upset, amazing everyone that evening with her performance against Mt. Pleasant's top female player and gave another convincing win for Rosedale! Her early victory was essential because it created the possibility for a Team "A" upset.*
- *Doubles Matches - Rosedale traditionally is stronger in doubles than singles. That evening, Alvin/Kim, Nick/Marlene and Carsten/Alvin all struggled and lost.*

*Thus the championship would be decided by the final two matches of the evening, a ladies and a men's singles. If it was stressful to play these matches (Kathy Conquergood and Colin Crump), it felt even worse for their teammates sitting on the benches above the courts to watch them play:*

- *A "mirror" Men's single match (Colin Crump) – Colin faced his toughest challenge all season – competing against himself on the other side of the net... or at least an opponent that had a very similar playing style. When this type of a match-up occurs, it can give some spectators a sensation that they are watching an arcade game of Pong where the handicap is set equal on both sides. Colin eventually won his match in a tie-break by 2 points with multiple breaks exchanged throughout his match.*
- *The Decider - Ladies Singles (Kathy Conquergood) –After Colin's victory, Team "A" immediately made sure Kathy was informed about it. Kathy and her opponent exchanged breaks multiple times until Kathy sealed the victory for Rosedale on the 10<sup>th</sup> game of the set.*

*When Kathy walked to the net to shake hands with her opponent, Rosedale Team A knew they have won a hard-earned victory and made a mark on the Club's history with the first Interclub championship win since 1975 and this time without junior ringers.*

In addition to Inter-Club, a few RTC members each year have also played in Alberta Tennis Association tournaments. We even have had provincial champions play out of our club. Kathy & Wade Mills won the 4.0 Provincial Mixed Doubles Title in 2014, having won 3.0 previously. A few years before, Maureen Rose won the 3.0 Provincial Singles Title and the 3.0 Mixed Doubles Title with her son, Richard, the same year. As described earlier, Rosedale even used to host 3.0 tournaments in the 1970s and 1980s. In recent years, we have supported Mount Pleasant's Canada Day Tournaments by providing courts for overflow matches.



*Colin Crump, Laurie Paulson, Nick Tang, Kathy Conquergood, & Alvin Ho (captain) with 3.0 Interclub Champions Trophy in 2013.*



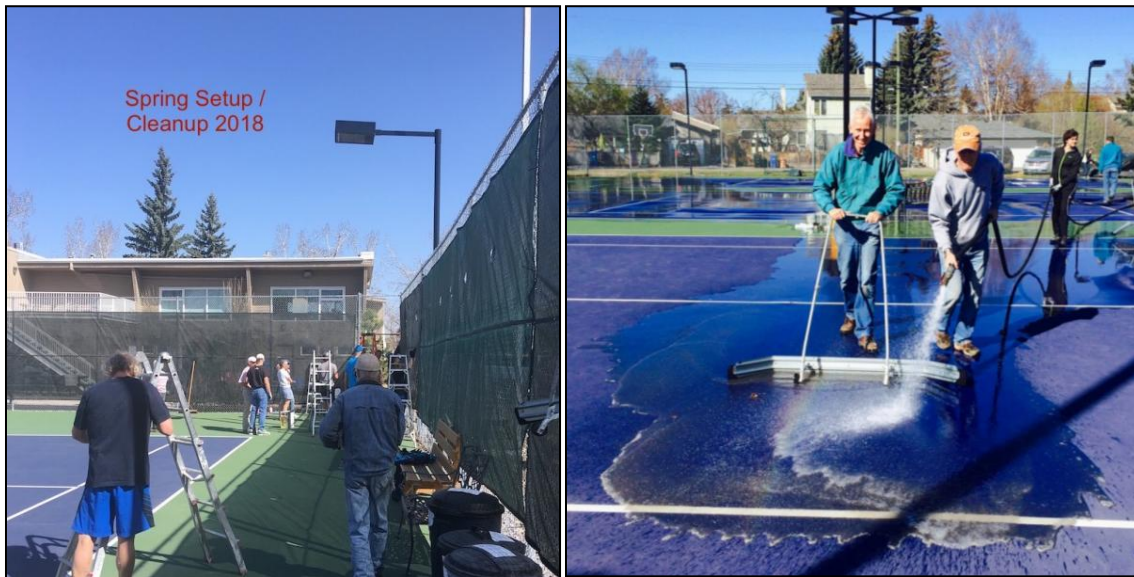
*2019 Inter-Club 3.0 League Champions. Leah Fletcher, Yolanda Bayer, Jessie Nagle (captain), Melissa Nagle, Anthony Yuen, Monique Mansour, Adam Mansour, & Pulkit Aura. There are a couple of sandbaggers in this group who will be playing at 4.0 level whenever Inter-Club starts-up again.*

### 5.8 RTC in 2021

The Club has changed slowly, but continuously over the past 50 years and will most likely continue to do so. To benchmark the next 50 years of changes, below is a characterization of what a typical season and a week of tennis was like in 2019 (2020 & 2021 were atypical because of restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic).

- RTC meets in late February at the RCA Community Hall for the Annual Meeting to approve the Treasurer's financial statements and elect new directors. It is rare a member-at-large turns-up at the meeting; it is usually just the Board. The newly elected Board then convenes a second meeting to agree on a budget, organize the activities for the coming year and discuss any issues of member concern. Usually this is the only in-person meeting of the year with e-mail voting used for any Club business later in the year that requires Board approval.
- The Board has 14-16 members with a turn-over of 1-3 people each year. Occasionally someone will volunteer unprompted, but usually members that are very active are recruited by current Board members and people agree to join as "it is their turn". There are a few Directors at Large, with all the other members having specific areas of responsibility such as maintenance, Inter-Club teams, lessons, and IT. One of the RTC Board members is also the RTC representative to the RCA Board of Directors.
- After the Annual Meeting, work begins immediately for the up-coming season: the maintenance director orders the new equipment approved in the budget such as windscreens, the lessons director contacts the professional coaches for commitment to a junior lessons schedule and negotiates fees, the IT director updates the website, and the President sends an email to the previous year membership announcing the plans for the coming season.
- On April 1st, the online membership and junior lessons registration is opened; each year there is about a 15-20% turn-over in membership. April 1st is chosen as it is the start of a new financial year for RTC/RCA. Shortly afterward, the Treasurer submits the RTC financials to the RCA Treasurer for inclusion in the community financial audit.
- Two old nets are left-up all winter on the courts and if it is an early Spring like 2021, then in some years play will begin in March. Usually this is just one or two members wanting a hit and the chance to be outside, so they will shovel the snow off of one court. Most of the core group of players at the Club are still playing at indoor clubs in March.
- Court Clean-up is on a Saturday in mid-April that often needs to be rescheduled for the following week because of inclement weather. Set-up takes 4 hours and requires about 20 volunteers: the old nets are taken down and stored, leaves and hockey pucks are gathered from the courts and along the outside of the fence, the court is hosed down to remove the accumulated winter dirt, windscreens are put-up by two teams at a time, the summer nets are installed, the rebound practice net is put-up, the benches are carried-out from storage, and the entry signs are bolted into place. If the weather is nice, it is easy work and it is fun socializing with players you haven't seen for six months. Coffee and muffins magically appear.
- The first Monday evening after set-up, is also the first Social Mix-in Evening. This runs on Mondays every week from 6 - 10:30pm and can draw up to 24 people on a warm June evening. The emphasis is on social play in rotation with partners chosen for each match to balance the teams. This event is often the first introduction of new or prospective members and Club Directors in attendance are on alert to greet and mix-in newcomers. When not playing, players sit on the benches along the fence and kibitz with the on-court players - any simple volley not put away will evoke several funny comments from the spectators. The numbers thin-out after 8:30pm and players who have mixed-in with the beginners earlier in the evening, will set-up competitive matches as the beginners leave. The keeners will have been at the courts for over 4

hours, finishing play mid-stroke when the light's automatic timer kicks-in at 10:30 pm. Usually by this time, there is a couple of benches full of kibitzers with a beer in hand and the commentary on stroke errors has become more raucous.



*April cleaning and setting-up of windscreens and nets. Phil manning the squeegee.*

- Social Mix-in are also held on Friday mornings and Saturday mornings. Turn-out is usually only 8 - 10 players, more when the members who are teachers become free in the summer.



*May to mid-July can be wet in Calgary. This guy came back with his partner for several years in a row.*



- The first Monday in May is the start of the afterschool junior lessons that runs for all of May and June. These lessons are in 2 to 3 age groups depending on registration numbers and run by a single coach. In recent years, this has been Alex Policarpo from the Tennis Academy, who lives in Rosedale and knows many of the families sending children to the lessons.



*Late April 2018. Some years the season starts in May and some years in March. Junior after school lesson start-up were delayed a week that year. Bill Wood, Community Maintenance Director, is using the ice rink snow blower to help the Club out. Winter nets are still up in photo.*

- May is also the start of the Singles Box League that runs May - September. This activity has become very popular over the last decade as it is the best opportunity for competitive singles play. Players arrange their own matches, usually on a weekend, and move up or down each month depending on the results. A trophy is awarded in September.
- A Men's Doubles and a Mixed Doubles League also commences in May and runs for two months. Play is on Thursday and Friday evenings with one session from 6pm - 8pm and a second session from 8pm - 10pm. There are 12 teams in each league, so the courts are fully booked. Players from the Inter-Club 4.0 and 3.0 teams participate along with Club hackers. A second session of the leagues may continue into July & August, but this is more informal as there are a lot of spares playing and defaults because of vacations.
- A Ladies & Men's Singles Competition has been held the last few years on a Saturday in late May with good turn-out, weather permitting.



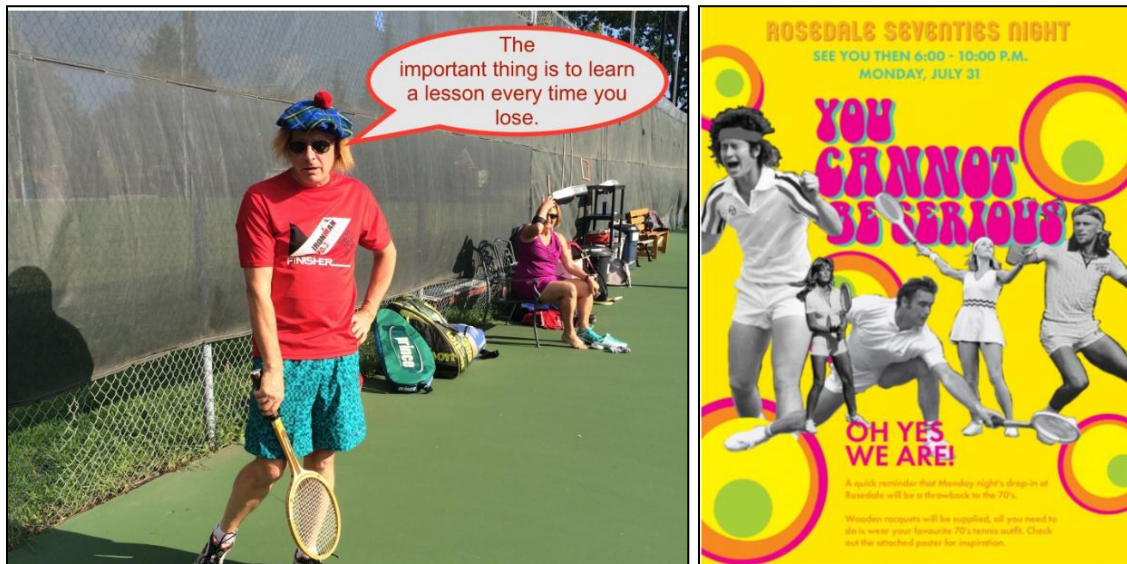
- The first social of the year, and usually the best attended, is held on the Saturday the week before the May long weekend. The two Social Directors of the Club arrange for food and drinks. Burgers are provided by the Club and everyone brings a dessert or salad to share. People sit at the tables in the patio area visiting and enjoying the food & drinks. The courts are full as players arrange doubles matches. A few newcomers turn-up and are mixed-in. The event used to start mid-afternoon with free junior lessons, but low turn-out led the Club to drop the lessons and start activities at 5pm. The kids do turn-out for the food though, and sometimes hit a few balls.
- Rosedale fields both 3.0 & 4.0 Inter-Club teams. The league begins the first week of June and finishes with play-offs in September for the top 4 teams in each league. The 3.0 team plays from 6pm on Tuesdays and the 4.0 team at 6pm on Wednesday with one-half of their matches at Rosedale. In some weeks in June, the courts are fully booked in the evenings from Monday through Friday with scheduled activities. Private matches move to day time or weekends.



*Enjoying patio area at one of Club's Social Events. Patio was installed with landscaped plant beds in 2012. RTC volunteers keep beds weeded and tidy.*

- A tradition begun 15 years ago by Moira Smith, our Scotland-born Social Director, is the Wimbledon Tea; held on the Monday Mix-in Evening when the Wimbledon Tournament commences, the first week of July. Scones with cream & strawberries and tea are served. Everyone wears the whitest outfits in their closet.
- An event held the past half-dozen years is the Wooden Racquet Night during the first Monday evening in August. Players dress-up in 1970s tennis gear and try not to damage their arms playing with heavy wooden racquets borrowed from shops and other clubs. Burgers & beer are

provided in the patio area by the Club at cost. Some of the costumes can be quite elaborate and there are lots of long haired wigs for the senior men - usually in inverse proportion to their current crop of hair.



*1970s Wooden Raquet Night brings-out the creative dress instincts. Poster was the creation of Presley Mills; daughter of Wade & Kathy. Ron is posing in his tam with his wife Maureen cringing in background.*

- Another Monday evening Mix-in Tennis Social is US Open Chili Dog Night held on the first Monday at the start of the US Open Tennis. The Social Directors arrange for bbq hotdogs with chili and a salad. Turn-out is usually quite good if the weather co-operates.
- The Club Singles Championships are held in early September. The format has varied a lot over recent years because the weather often interferes. Usually a draw of 16 men compete and there is a turn-out of about 6 women in a ladies draw. There has only been one repeat champion on the men's side over the past decade. In the 2020 final, the match was watched live through the RTC's web camera by finalist Adam Mansour's family in New Zealand. He lost.
- The Autumn Wind-up Social is held in late September. Weather forces this pot luck event indoors half the time. Attendance is lower than the Spring event. Trophies for the leagues and competitions are awarded.
- Court Clean-up is usually held in October after the Thanksgiving long weekend. A weather forecast of snow or prolonged cold temperatures will trigger an email to be sent-out for a Saturday clean-up. This work only takes a morning with about 8 people needed to take down windscreens & nets, put-up 2 winter nets, and store benches.
- Of the ~100 memberships, there is a core group of ~40 players who play 3 times or more a week by participating in the Monday Mix-in, leagues and Inter-Club teams. Not all the action is organized; during the day time there are seniors that will regularly come out for a hit or a friendly doubles match. There is one group of friends that has played every Sunday morning for over 40 years and has been at Rosedale for 15 years. This group often has 3 courts of men's doubles going for 2 hours with play starting as early as 8am in the summer, so as not to conflict with other court users. In 2021, the women in the club organized themselves to play after the men's group on Sunday mornings for 2 hours, often using all 3 courts.





*Trophy Presentation at Fall Wind-up Social, always a hit or miss event with the weather.*



*Norm, Steve & Randy. October evening play in toques and layered clothing. Beer stays cool, though.*

## 6. References

There are additional documents that could add to the story above, especially the early tennis story in Calgary. For example, most written material that is archived at the Glenbow has not been scanned and could not be reviewed as Covid restrictions prevented a visit to the archives. Diaries and family fonds may hold some insightful information. Sources that were useful include:

- The in-person-only access to Calgary History section of the Main Library was searched. Most of the early Calgary history in the appendices comes from books in this collection.
- The Calgary Herald newspaper archives date back to 1883 and were searched online using "tennis" as a key word (<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/newspapers/>).
- The Fort Calgary archivist provided a map of the lay-out of the 1882 fort and also a lead to the history of sport in the NWMP that their archivist is still working-on.
- The history of Parks & Recreation Calgary's development of public tennis courts is taken from online City archives at <https://www.calgary.ca/ca/city-clerks/archives/archives.html>.
- The Rosedale area history uses excerpts from Kate Reeve's 2001 Rosedale Stories (<https://myrosedale.info/history/rosedale-stories/>) and from online histories of Sunnyside and Crescent Heights Community Associations.
- "Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the present." 1969. Howell & Howell.
- "Sport in Early Calgary". 1983. William McLennon.
- "Lawn Tennis in Calgary". pp 460-480. A chapter in "Young People of all Ages - Sports, Schools, and Youth Groups in Calgary." 1975. Century Calgary Publications.

# Rosedale Tennis Club History

## Appendix A - 1970 - 2021 Summary of RTC Activities

RTC Summary of Activities from Meeting Minutes			
Year	Date	Documents	Activity
1970	18th Oct	Executive Meeting Minutes	Membership Drive Plans
	30th Nov	Executive Meeting Minutes	Report on court construction by Gallelli ; reads as if partial
1971	26th Jan	Executive Meeting Minutes	Plans to get members and volunteers
	26th Jan	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Adopt revised constitution
	14th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Prepare for March Gen Meeting
	28th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Nomination Committee new board proposals
	8th March	Executive Meeting Minutes	Courts should be ready; lines and nets/posts to be done; clubhouse window repair
	22nd March	Executive Meeting Minutes	Courts cost \$10,000+; Used a \$4,000 bank loan; \$4,000 from "donations" & \$1,600 from City
	17th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Lighting cost estimated at \$300
	6th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	Court #3 dropped and holds water; City lessons started
	14th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	Gallelli won't fix water pooling; hire court manager; parking on grass issues; coke machine broken
	July	General Meeting Minutes	Tennis club opposes RCA integration proposal; Tournament planned for July
	11th Oct	Executive Meeting Minutes	Nominations for 1972
	25th Oct	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Court manger worked out well but too expensive; decided against lights; practice board noise issues
	June	June Membership List	50 members
	Oct	Membership List	50 members, some still owing initiation fee
1972	9th March	Executive Meeting Minutes	\$4,000 loan to be paid down; drive for outside community members
	23rd March	Executive Meeting Minutes	Formalize rules for juniors and outside community being considered
	10th May	Newletter	Prefer whites, but not compulsory; member supervisors, sign-up chalk board
	30th May	Annual General Meeting Minutes	81 memberships; 50 cents guest fee
	25th Sept	Executive Meeting Minutes	RCA - RTC poor communication; back board noise issues; RTC constitution allows Rosedale members only for Board
	4th Oct	Newletter	Promoting an Oct 14th Wind-up party with band to 1am
	17th Oct	Annual General Meeting Minutes	95 members; paid down bank loan so now \$2,500 owing
	26th Oct	Executive Meeting Minutes	2 courts in gym at Crescent Heights
	9th Nov	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing fashion show for next March
	16th Nov	Newletter	Evening tennis at Crescent Heights making Rosedale Calgary's first year round tennis club
		Rules Bulletin	No use of backboard after 8pm; no parking in lane or on grass
		Court Captain Guidelines	Key lock; 30 minutes for doubles and 20 minutes for singles
		Membership	95 members listed by street address and fee paid; \$30 initiation for new members and \$5/year
		Treasurers Report	Loan at bank down to \$2,500; paid down from \$1495 in membership fees
1973	24th Jan	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing fashion show for next March
	26th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing fashion show for next March at SAIT
	4th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Made \$416 profit from fashion show.
	30th April	General Meeting Minutes	Club has 8 lights; ladies beginner tennis lessons popular. Joined inter-club
	7th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing the year
	12th May	May 12th Albertan newspaper	Report on fashion show and history of tennis
	23rd May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Loan paid off; 99 memberships
	28th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	Usual summer activity reports
	14th Aug	Executive Meeting Minutes	Junior behaviour and backboard issues
	15th Aug	Aug 15th & 19th Letters	Suspended one junior for bad behaviour
	20th Aug	Aug 20th Lawyer Letter	9th St residents complaining about backboard noise from NE corner
	5th Sept	Executive Meeting Minutes	Backboard to be removed; new procedure for suspensions; junior to be readmitted
	18th Oct	Treasurer's Report	\$311 balance
	23rd Oct	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Finish year with \$311 balance after starting with debt; looking at resurfacing courts; winter play at Sir Patrick Burns School
	9th Nov	Executive Meeting Minutes	Discuss fund raising ideas, including a David Sagert music concert that later raised \$1204
	13th Dec	Executive Meeting Minutes	Mice eating stored nets
1974	3rd April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Applying for City grant to resurface courts (4 years old!); plan to sell off lights in storage
	9th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Decide to resurface courts for \$6,800; only \$2,500 available, but will borrow from RCA
	21st Oct	Treasurer's Report	\$256 balance
1975	30th Jan	Executive Meeting Minutes	One Rosedale under 12 shows promise and sponsored for lesson at Glencoe
	6th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Issue with court 3 as still low spot after resurfacing; planning for 200 adults and 75 juniors
	11th March	Mar 11th Letters & replies	Lifetime membership given to 3 founders
	17th March	Executive Meeting Minutes	Court 3 drainage issue; plan to hold a "C" open tournament; CTC indoor winter to be explored
	30th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing summer activities
	7th May	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Vote in new board: court attire rules - no stripes, flowers, plaids or cut-offs; \$704 in bank; 176 members to date; a "junior" issue
	14th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Establish a rules committee to deal with poor junior behavior; contractor to repair court 3
	29th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Cut court time from 45 minutes to 30 minutes, as so busy
	17th Oct	Treasurer's Report	\$573 balance
1976	9th Jan	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Reported loan from RCA for court resurfacing now repaid.; Rosedale was C champion in 1975 (many juniors played)
	5th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Back to 45 minutes court time; court 3 water
	March	March Member Bulletin	Events for season
	7th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Junior behaviour - players arguing about 45 min rule/juniors after 6pm - adult slapped a junior; letters exchanged
	22nd April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Junior behaviour; now up to 5 life memberships
	17th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Approved one Executive position for non-Rosedale resident
	8th Nov	Executive Meeting Minutes	\$2,337 in bank. Clubhouse idea raised
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$2,663 balance
1977	24th Mar	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$1,745 in bank. Plan to dig gravel perimeter
	29th April	City Parks Letter	Agree to 16ft gravel trench in SW corner & City will dig a narrow trench around all of courts and fill with shale
	17th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	66 families signed up to date; gravel work done
	24th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Still discussing how to manage busy time at courts
	29th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Always focused on rules - court captains, proper dress, shoe tags, guest fees, juniors, ...
	8th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	organizing a busy league & lessons season
	6th July	Executive Meeting Minutes	Membership 108 families (49 non-resident); looking at backboard on east side of hall
	6th Nov	Executive Meeting Minutes	2nd guest fee box broken into; discussing limiting membership numbers; C tournament a success; City dug trench
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$4,283 balance
1978	March	March Letters	5 Honorary Memberships awarded; not clear if Lifetime or just cover fees (\$7) for year
	20th Mar	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Plan on B and C Interclub Teams; plan for backboard if RCA & grant funding approved; looking at windscreens; \$5,718 in bank;
	12th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	263 members in total; closed to further non-residents
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$5,718 balance
1979	20th March	Executive Meeting Minutes	plan for water fountain; plan to limit memberships; decided against wind screens cause of cost; cancel C tournament
	10th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Hockey lights first installed; court 3 sinking
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$8,943 bank balance; owe RCA \$705
1980	20th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Stopped hosting C tournament because few Rosedale entrants; plan to raise & resurface courts and remove bumper
	15th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	To get estimates for resurface and for lights
	20th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Accepted Western Canada Tennis court resurface bid for \$5,300 plus dig gravel pit outside SW corner; no backboard cause of cost
	May & June	Letters to City	Approval to dig drainage pit
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$5,245 balance
1981	13th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Balance of \$5,242. Decided against lights as too expensive; already a crack in court 3; still looking at backboard and windscreens
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$7,245 balance
1982	6th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Still planning for backboard, now on court 1 instead of building; balance of \$7,225
	7th June	Executive Meeting Minutes	Exploring putting backboard on court 3 and getting windscreens; problems with non-members using courts
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$9,834 balance



## Rosedale Tennis Club History

1983	2nd May	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Back board now planned for 1984 as hope to include in RCA building grant; court 3 repairs planned; now require sponsorship on non-members
	7th July	Executive Meeting Minutes	Non-member problems; court 3 repaired
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$11,149 balance
1984	24th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Backboard discussed; changed dress code as archaic; court 2 repairs needed
	31st Dec	Treasurer's Report	\$11,986 balance
1985	4th March	Special Meeting Minutes	\$5,000 pledge to RCA (loan) for new building; reads as if Executive had to strong arm members to approve
	25th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$11,987 balance; RCA forgot to include backboard in new building; pooling and paint lifting on courts 2 & 3; backboard & windscreens plans
	30th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Organizing the year
	14th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Dave Paterson reported on windscreens and need to reinforce poles; neighbours to be surveyed about backboard
	June	Letters between RCA & RTC	RTC reneged on \$5,000 pledge according to RCA. Larry Clauson member of both seems to have been caught up in mess
	12th Sept	Executive Meeting Minutes	Looking at windscreens samples; Merge with RCA discussed (1 set of accounts), but RTC opposed.
	17th Oct	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Windscreens to be purchased for north, west and south sides
1986	19th March	Executive Meeting Minutes	\$11,486 balance; windscreens to be purchased; rejoin Interclub league; start up C tournament again; merger proposal with RCA cause RCA "responsible" for activities
	2nd April	General Meeting Minutes	Special meeting that approved bylaw changes so that RTC part of RCA as special program reporting to RCA Board; keep separate bank account, but need RCA co-sign
	31st May	General Meeting Minutes	Approve resurfacing this year; approved RTC bylaw changes to Exec positions so these are Rosedale residents so as to conform with RCA
	20th Oct	General Meeting Minutes	1 neighbour complained about windscreens; \$3,555 balance;
1987	16th March	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Holding C tournament again; trying box leagues as ladder didn't work; 8 Interclub team; try Club Night but not optimistic as unsuccessful in past; \$3,798 balance
	20th Nov	General Meeting Minutes	Planning for 1988
1988	13th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	30 minutes for singles; organizing a Panorama tennis weekend; \$6561 balance
1989	13th Jan	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$6,736 balance; plans for year; dropped C tournament
	18th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Court 3 needs resurfacing; Panorama weekend again
	July	Newsletter	20 members went to Panorama
	24th Nov	General Meeting Minutes	City to look at root & fluff problem on court 3
	28th Dec	City Parks Letter	Proposed work for court 3 poplar roots: trench, herbicide and metal barrier. Expect will protect trees for 5 more years
1990	2nd April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Looking at grants for court resurfacing, but needed to remove 150 membership limit
	27th Nov	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Looking at backboard
	27th Nov	City Legal Letters	Advises that because non-resident RTC membership is at discretion of Executive according to by-laws, that RTC is not eligible for City grants
1991	26th Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Prepare for annual meeting; problem with Executive positions as non-resident restricted
	3rd April	RCA letter to Parks	Authorizing removal of 2 poplars on lane
	26th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Court 3 to be resurfaced if trees removed in time; Mt Pleasant given unlimited access while their courts resurfaced;
	28th May	RTC Letter to City Recreation	Advising non-resident bylaw restriction removed
	July-Nov	RTC & City Letters	Tree removal
	20th Nov	Budget	\$12,881 balance
1992	14th April	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Court resurfacing to be delayed so that City funding in 1993; short of Board positions
	28th April	City Parks Letter	Confirming 2 poplars removed; note that poplars graft onto other trees and if poison then could kill other trees; state that won't remove any other trees at site
1993		no documents	
1994	May-Aug	Contractor documents	Tomko resurfaced courts - lots of issues with curbs and grass perimeter and old material; dry well was build; new net
1995		no documents	
1996	June	Newsletter to Membership	lessons; box league; ladies mornings with baby-sitting
		Membership list	Only 36 families
1997	May	Newsletter to Membership	\$1,136 balance
1998	13th May	Annual General Meeting Minutes	Agenda; ~\$4,800 balance; junior lessons, box league
	26th Oct	Executive Meeting Minutes	Next year start a mix-in evening;
1999	March	Executive Meeting Minutes	Planning year. Try at least one social event. \$5,890 balance
	15th April	Annual General Meeting Agenda	
	22nd June	Executive Meeting Agenda	\$7,328 balance
	5th Oct	Executive Meeting Agenda	
2000	23rd Feb	Executive Meeting Minutes	Casino raised \$12,500 for RTC; Hosting a juniorB tournament; no Interclub or club championship
	11th May	Annual General Meeting Agenda	planning year
	8th Sept	Season Recap	resurfaced, patching, new nets; vandalism - yanked out ring for centre straps on 2 courts - gate was open; set-up mix-in night
2001	19th Feb	Executive Meeting Agenda	plan year
	12th April	Annual General Meeting Agenda	
2002	8th April	Executive Meeting Minutes	Box league didn't work; Ron trying to get Monday night mix-in; plan to buy 2 windscreens
	13th May	Annual General Meeting Agenda	
2003	26th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$14,722 balance; Replace 1 more windscreen; working on Monday night drop-in; maybe Interclub?worry that need to increase membership
2004	1st March	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$15,248 balance; Monday night tennis a success - Phil & Ron; tennis lessons a success in 2003 (Sarah); courts need resurfacing; ran Interclub team
	30th May	Executive Meeting Minutes	Decide to resurface courts for \$12,465; looking at backboard
2005	28th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$10,500 balance; 2004 box league finally successful; lessons the same; may field 2 interclub teams
2006	6th March	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$11,374 balance; shoe tags again; similar plans to 2005
2007	21st Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	report that 2006 growth from 2005; \$14,356 balance; court 3 in bad shape; looking at website; WC ran junior tournament for 3rd year
2008	27th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$14,722 balance; Replace 1 more windscreen; working on Monday night drop-in; maybe Interclub?worry that need to increase membership
2009	25th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	2 poplars on lane were removed in 2008; 2 Interclub teams; \$17,270 balance; hold-off on court repairs
2010	24th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$17,989 balance; 4 social events in 2009 to be continued; Interclub teams struggle; funds towards storage shed
2011	23rd Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$14,876 balance; drop 4.0 team and enter two 3.0 teams; plan on 2012 resurfacing as Lifecycle
2012	29th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$11,224 balance; funds towards light bases; full replacement of courts, increase membership \$10; ball machine purchase; "A" 3.0 Interclub team made finals;
2013	27th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$12,556 balance; funding rejected for replacing fence; bylaws updated, started evening Doubles league, both 3.0 teams made playoffs with 1 team the champs;
2014	18th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$18,490 balance; junior lesson numbers decline for 3rd year; Social events now include US Open & Wimbledon Tea; wiring for lights laid when courtyard constructed
			After 2013 Interclub 3.0 success, entered a 4.0 team; approval given to commit RTC funds and seek grants for lighting; Sept gala fundraiser held
2015	5th March	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$35,212 balance due to fundraising gala in Sept 2014; membership registration online set-up; tennis light approvals received & grants awarded:
			\$20,000 from Parks Fdn, \$5,000 from RCA, and \$50,000 from Province CFEP; Lighting installed in Sept; shielding cut to meet funds available; Spring singles tourney held
2016	24th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$5,896 balance; Friday evening teenager mix-in initiative hampered by poor weather and had low attendance; micro-crack patching on court 3 by Tomko; 1 new windscreens purchased; A gravel filled perimeter trench was dug by volunteers with RCA paying 50% of costs; light shields on west lane not installed as planned; July junior lessons cancelled; a 5th social event added - August Wooden Raquet Night at a Monday evening mix-in; Interclub, league and lesson fees all online
2017	22nd Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$12,761 balance; micro-crack patching by Tomko; lighting shields installed on west lane lights by Tomko; 1 new small windscreens purchased - now cover all fences
			Doubles league expanded to both Thursday and Friday evenings; 4.0 Interclub Team lost in finals; Junior afterschool lessons & one age group July camp run
2018	21st Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$16,682 balance; court patching planned, but early snow intervened; 1 new large windscreens purchased; ball machine broken a couple of times that Greg was able to repair; junior lessons well supported after email blasts through RCA & school; Doubles league extended into summer on an informal basis
2019	20th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$24,916 balance; 3 x volunteers did extensive micro-crack patching with only cost being materials; 1 new large windscreens purchased; braces on rebound net redone to separate from fence; ball machine repaired as out of commission for a few weeks; a team designed a clubhouse, collected contractor bids, got neighbour approval and applied for a Parks Foundation grant for 50% funding. Grant not awarded as project not deemed "essential". The 3.0 Interclub team won the league.
2020	19th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$28,551 balance; courts resurfaced by Tomko in late August for \$33,376 with RTC paying 25% & CCG 75%; raised areas along west fence leveled. Covid-19 pandemic restrictions delayed play to May. Inter-Club cancelled. Webcam installed. A new windscreens and 2 new squeegies purchased. Spring social events cancelled due to Covid. Junior lessons cancelled. Ron Beguin awarded honorary membership. Increase in Rosedale resident members because of Covid.
2021	24th Feb	Annual General Meeting Minutes	\$27,089 balance; CFEP grant application submitted in January for 50% funding of \$60,000 clubhouse; application turned-down; CFEP funding was cut 35% in 2020 and again in 2021. Spring Covid-19 restrictions again delayed start of season. Membership rose to 172 from 107 due to indoor club player sign-ups. Inter-Club again cancelled. Doubles Leagues in evening expanded to double the number of teams. Able to run junior lessons in July. In September, righted and reinforced 3 x leaning posts in SE Corner of courts - 100% RTC expense at \$800. Held 50th RTC Anniversary Party in mid-August with good turn-out, but rained and had to move indoors. Membership fees increased \$15 for 2021 and with extra 70 members there was a doubling of revenue versus 2020 and earlier years.

# Appendix B - RTC Directors 1970 - 2021

Rosedale Tennis Club Directors									
Year	No of Members	Fee	President	Vice Pres	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership	Grounds	Social
1970			J Falconer	D Mout	B McArdle	H Brinton	none	W White	R King
1971	50	\$30 Initiation & \$5/yr	R King	J Falconer	B McArdle	H Brinton	none	W White	B White
1972	95	\$35/new & \$5/returning	B White	R King	K Moody	S King	none	J Falconer	V Meeres
1973	150	\$35/new & \$5/returning	R Mills	D Brown	J Falconer	P Campbell	A McLachlan	W McLachlan	B Simpson, R King, K McWhae, H Sharpe, B Simpkins
1974		\$35/new & \$5/returning	D Mout	G Meeres	D Brown	K Pawchuk	M Bondar	H Sharpe	
1975		\$35/new & \$5/returning	G Meeres	R King	D Brown	K Pawchuk	M Waldo	G Mout	
1976		\$37/new & \$7/returning	D Brown	B Gerein	P Lemke	J Murphy	B Cane		
1977	108 families	\$37/new & \$7/returning	H Kearl	V Raasveldt	S Watson	D Henzie	F Cooke	Galls	H Sharpe, S King, D Pagenkopf
1978	263 total	\$37/new & \$7/returning	H Kearl	V Raasveldt	S Watson	D Henzie	F Cooke	Galls	H Sharpe, S King, D Pagenkopf
1979	99 families	\$40/new & \$10/returning	H Kearl	V Raasveldt	S Watson	D Henzie	F Cooke	Galls	R Van Es, D Brown, J Smith
1980		\$40/new & \$10/returning	P Lemke	B Nemetz	P Galant	N Marshall	N Peters		M Fox, D Brown, D Van Es
1981		\$40/new & \$10/returning	P Lemke	B Nemetz	S Main	N Marshall	N Peters		R Van Es, D Brown, J Smith
1982		\$40/new & \$10/returning	P Lemke	S Main	P Mazza	N Marshall	M Campbell		
1983	56 families	\$40/new & \$10/returning	J Parker	L Findlay	N Kilpatrick	N Marshall	P Galant		
1984		\$45/new & \$15/returning	L Clausen	L Findlay	N Kilpatrick	N Marshall	P Galant		
1985	66 families	\$45/new & \$15/returning	M Barfoot	D Brown	E Meau	N Fox	S King		
1986		\$50/new & \$20/returning	J Pasieka	D Brown	N Weedle	N Blair	S King	D Kromm	L Clausen, D Kromm
1987			N Ross	M Ross		J Pareka	P Jones	M Weedle	M Barfoot, N Ross
1988	48 families		M Weedle			S Kerford	P Jones	A Scheibner	
1989	62 families		N Ross			S Kerford	G Northam	N Weedle	N Blair, S Kerford
1990	75 families					M Ross	M Ross	N Weedle	D McCowan
1991	50 families	\$65 new family/\$30 return family	W Tinker	D Van Driel	D Paterson	S Kerford	M Ross	T Robb	N Ross, P Jones
1992		\$65 new family/\$30 return family	W Tinker				N Weedle	M Schroeder	P Jones, D McCowan
1993			W Tinker				N Weedle		
1994			W Tinker				N Weedle		
1995		\$100 new family/\$60 return family	W Tinker				N Weedle		
1996	34 families	\$100 new family/\$60 return family	W Tinker				N Weedle		
1997			W Tinker				N Weedle		
1998	50 families		C Unsworth	B Cedergren	J Weber	W Ford		M Weedle	C Unsworth
1999	40 families		C Unsworth	B Cedergren	J Weber	W Dunn	H Heacock	S Bolger	T Morgan, D Altenhoff
2000	39 families	\$40 family	C Unsworth	B Cedergren	J Weber	W Dunn	H Heacock	S Bolger	
2001	36 families		C Unsworth	B Cedergren	D Altenhoff	W Dunn	H Heacock	R Beugin	L Polson
2002	39 families	\$50 family	C Unsworth	B Cedergren		W Dunn	H Heacock	R Beugin	
2003	61 families	\$50 family	R Beugin	P Edwards		W Dunn	H Heacock	P Edwards	S Widdowson, P Stokes, A French
2004	51 families	\$50 family	R Beugin	P Edwards	R Beugin	W Dunn	R Beugin	P Edwards	S Widdowson, P Stokes, A French, J Weber
2005	70 families	\$50 family	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	W Dunn	R Beugin	P Edwards	S Widdowson, J Abraham, J Weber, D Pateso
2006	84 families	\$50 family	R Beugin	J Weber	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	J Abraham, D Paterson, C Szefer, S Widdowson
2007	67 families	\$55 family	R Beugin	J Weber	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	J Abraham, D Paterson, L Petrick, S Widdowson
2008	93 families	\$55 family	R Beugin	J Weber	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	J Abraham, D Paterson, L Petrick, S Widdowson
2009	89 families	\$55 family	R Beugin	R Beugin	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	M Smith, J Weber, D Paterson, L Petrick, S Widdowson
2010	75 families	\$55 family	R Beugin	R Beugin	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	M Smith, J Weber, D Paterson, S Widdowson, L Petrick, A Stevens, S Widdowson, J Abraham
2011	79 families	\$55 family	R Beugin	R Beugin	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	M Smith, J Weber, D Paterson, K MacDonald, K Mills, M Podivinsky, L Petrick, A Stevens
2012	79 families	\$65 family	R Beugin	R Beugin	R Beugin	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	K Mills, J Weber, K Charonneau, N Stevens, R Beugin, L Petrick, A Stevens
2013	110 families	\$65 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	K Mills, J Weber, K Charonneau, A Ho, J Fletcher, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean
2014	118 families	\$65 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, J Weber, K Charonneau, A Ho, J Fletcher, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean
2015	129 families	\$65 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, J Weber, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, B Ford, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean, P Friers
2016	116 families	\$80 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	P Stokes	R Beugin	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, B Ford, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean, P Friers
2017	107 families	\$85 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	R Dalgleish	D Aftergood	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, B Ford, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean, P Friers
2018	101 families	\$85 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	R Dalgleish	P Edwards	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, B Ford, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean, P Friers
2019	101 families	\$85 family	D Paterson	H Fensury	D Paterson	R Dalgleish	P Edwards	P Edwards	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, B Ford, C Crump, R Beugin, T Pham, S Maclean, P Friers
2020	107 families	\$85 family	H Fensury	J Fletcher	C Kennedy	R Dalgleish	eliminated	D MacDonald	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, R Beugin, T Pham, P Friers, J Nagle, K Poovong, N Hopkins
2021	172 families	\$100 family	H Fensury	J Fletcher	C Kennedy	R Dalgleish	eliminated	D MacDonald	K Mills, W Mills, K Charonneau, J Fletcher, R Beugin, T Pham, P Friers, J Nagle, K Poovong, N Hopkins

## **7. Appendix C - Pre-Tennis Calgary 1873 - 1883**

The year lawn tennis was introduced as a sport in Britain, the Calgary area was home to buffalo herds, indigenous peoples, a few missionaries, a few traders and its first settler. Ten years later there were lawn tennis matches on Calgary courts.

What follows is a description of the Calgary area from 1873 to 1883, from pre-NWMP arrival to the arrival of the CPR. This decade saw the end of the Plains Indigenous peoples' horse culture that had thrived for 150 years, and the beginning of Canadian settler culture. The transition was more compressed in southern Alberta than anywhere else on the North American plains; from roaming hunting bands to lawn tennis in a single decade.

The Calgary area was remote, but not completely isolated in 1873. It would have taken as little as 12 days to travel from Calgary to Toronto by way of Fort Benton via horse, paddle wheeler, train, and ship. The mail went the same route and when the NWMP arrived in 1875 there was weekly postal service available to the missionaries, settlers, trappers and traders. Consequently, the events of the decade are well documented in letters, journals, reports, sketches and photographs.

### **7C.1 Bison**

Calgary was at the western edge of the *"home on the range where the buffalo roamed"*. Except they are bison and they didn't roam (migrate); the latest research indicates that each bison herd tended to favour fairly restricted areas where they would move about from parkland to prairie as the seasons changed. Sam Steele in his memoirs describes the NWMP police trek from the Cypress Hills to found Fort Macleod in 1874 marching in close quarter all day through bison herds with wolf packs skulking on the periphery.

Dressed bison robes had been a part of the fur trade for generations and for the Plains indigenous tribes were the principal trade item in return for European goods. The development of a new hide-tanning process in Europe in ~1870 resulted in an insatiable need for heavy leather belts for machinery. There were insufficient cattle hides, so attention turned to North America's vast herds of bison. Professional hunters efficiently killed large numbers of bison for their hides using newly developed repeating rifles. The hides were transported by paddle wheelers down the Missouri River and on to Europe. The slaughter moved north to Canada with time. Over 15,000 hides were shipped south by IG Baker Trading Company from Fort Calgary in 1876. A somewhat lesser amount was shipped out of Fort Edmonton, hunted by the nearby Métis colonies. The Métis bison trade in Manitoba had died-out a decade earlier, even before the leather demand, for lack of bison.

The free ranging bison era came to an abrupt end in 1877. Barrington, the NWMP doctor, describes a large fire during the autumn of 1877 that had been burning in the Porcupine Hills and adjacent prairie for weeks that chased the bison south. There, they were slaughtered for their hides along the Missouri with the warring Sioux purposely keeping the remainders of the herds to the south. This led to starvation in Canada. It was a boost for the fledgling cattle industry as the government fed the people now confined to reservations after the signing of Treaty 7 in 1877. Once the CPR arrived, there was a profitable business shipping buffalo bones to Kansas City for making fertilizer; the business stopped not for lack of bones, but because the remainder were too far from the railway. In 1887, the last bison on the Canadian plains was killed.

## **7C.2 Indigenous Peoples**

Humans have been in the Calgary area for 11,000 years, since the last of the glaciers retreated. Current research favours these people migrating from the south, following large game. These people's ancestors had arrived tens of thousands of years earlier via coastal migration, at a time Alberta was covered in a continental ice sheet. How these early peoples are related to the indigenous tribes of the Present Day will slowly be revealed in the future as genome research progresses.

There were four principal indigenous tribes settled in the Calgary area in 1873, aligned in the Blackfoot Confederacy. Some were fairly recent migrants to the area as indicated by the three different languages spoken. The Tsuu T'ina (Sarcees) were settled along the Elbow River. They were originally from the Peace River country and arrived about 1800, splitting off from the main group after a dispute. The Nakoda (Stoney) were a Sioux-speaking tribe settled on the upper Bow River who had arrived about 1740; they had migrated west, perhaps fleeing an early pandemic introduced by Europeans.

The Bloods and Piegiens are Blackfoot tribes, their language is related to woodland tribes of eastern Canada; their dialect being the most archaic version. They hunted east of the other tribes.

Other indigenous tribes also made their presence felt. The Kutenai tribe migrated west to BC from the Alberta foothills in the early 1700s under pressure from the Blackfeet, though they did venture east at their peril in 1873 to hunt buffalo. Conversely, the Cree moved out of the northern forests with the arrival of the horse and their encroachment on traditional Blackfoot lands led to a hundred years of war. Tribes organized as "autonomous bands" (Cree, Assiniboine) with 30-50 in a group, or as "integrated bands" (Blackfeet), essentially autonomous bands that recognized a higher/formal authority (band council, permanent leader).

The stone age technology of the Canadian plains peoples changed when iron and copper tools arrived about 1700 from Hudson's Bay as part of the fur trade and made its way west. Soon afterwards in ~1730, the Piegiens first got horses from the Snakes to the south, either from trading or raids. Guns arrived soon afterwards. These new technologies dramatically improved the life of plains peoples, though inter-tribe warfare became much more lethal. Unfortunately, with the technology came disease. European introduced diseases are first documented arriving in the western plains in about 1730-1740. There was a smallpox pandemic in 1780. The 1870/71 smallpox pandemic killed one-third of the Blackfoot tribe.

## **7C.3 Trading Posts, Missionaries, and Homesteaders**

A half-dozen small whiskey trading posts operated in the Calgary region at various times over the decade prior to 1873, supplied from Fort Benton. Most met the fate of Karamore Post located three miles upriver on the Elbow River (Roxboro neighbourhood) and were burned down. The principal reason the NWMP established Fort Calgary was to curtail the whiskey trade in a region that was beyond the reach of Fort Macleod and Edmonton. There was a Hudson's Bay trading post near the Stoney band on Ghost River.

In 1873, a Methodist mission was established in Morley and a single log cabin Catholic Mission was located on the Elbow River near Bragg Creek; it relocated to the Mission District of Calgary when the NWMP arrived in 1875.

Also in 1873, John Glenn became Calgary's first European settler (he was Irish born) when he built a cabin and farmed in what is now Fish Creek Park near the confluence with the Bow River. There were

also a few Métis trapper families living along the rivers. Even by 1884, there were only 25 homesteads in the Calgary area; farming was not why people came to the Calgary area. Dry farming was not taken up in southern Alberta until the late 1890s.

British and Eastern Canadian "tourists" began exploring the North West Territories by 1875, hunting & fishing their way through the region with guides. This was generally first class travel by train and paddle wheeler to Montana and then using pack horse trains to carry the necessary luxuries of home. Books describing their adventures were written after returning home. Their stories & sketches appeared regularly in the British, American, and Canadian newsmagazines, usually without much insight offered and aimed at reinforcing the wild west reputation of the eastern imagination.

### **7C.4 NWMP**

Canada had purchased Rupert's Land from the Hudson Bay Company for \$1.5 million in 1870, three years after Confederation. Nominally, the NWMP was formed in 1873 as a response to armed conflict between different indigenous tribes and the proliferation of whiskey trading posts on Canadian territory by traders from the much more heavily populated and transport connected American border states.

Strategically, the primary reason the NWMP was formed was to hold the territory from de facto American assimilation driven by the "manifest destiny doctrine" until the national railway promised British Columbia at Confederation could be built. At the time, the North West Territories had a population of 55,000, 80% of whom were indigenous. The American expansion west had renewed after pausing for their Civil War from 1860- 1865. Prior to the war, Texas, New Mexico, and California had been assimilated as American territory.

What are now the states of Oregon and Washington were earlier ceded by the British instead of the U.S. demand to include all of British Columbia, too. The U.S. backed-down only because they were facing a war with Mexico over the earlier territory encroachment and they didn't want to fight two wars at the same time.

Two transcontinental railways were under construction on the United States plains by 1873, including the Northern Pacific route through Montana whose last spike was 1883, the same year the CPR reached Calgary. Miners were pouring into the silver & gold fields of the Dakotas, Idaho and Montana, travelling by paddle wheeler to Fort Benton, Montana on the upper Missouri River. There was a military wagon road from Fort Benton to Walla Walla, Washington used by tens of thousands of settlers heading to the Columbia River valley and the NW coast. The United States was connected coast to coast in 1873.

The only internal route in the Canadian NW Territories was the fur trade York Boats from Hudson's Bay to Edmonton. Ironically, the NWMP chose the American transport network to support the NW Territories policing. The Canadian government later chose the more difficult southern route through Calgary for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to avoid losing southern prairie business to the Northern Pacific and as a further statement of sovereignty.

The NWMP troopers signed-on for a term of three years with only one-half completing their contract. Most were 20-25 years old, raised on farms, could ride a horse and were looking for adventure. Desertion was a major problem, especially at the posts near the American border where the lures of the gold and silver rushes proved too strong to resist. The recruits from England, Ireland and the NW Territories tended to see out their contract. Recruits from Europe, the US, Scotland, and Eastern Canada had desertion rates over 30%. A 1879 diary from a trooper stationed in Fort McLeod paints a very different picture of frontier life from the stereotypical version of NWMP lore:



*" He describes all day poker games, billiards, drama clubs, troops frequently drunk (Jamaica rum and ginger smuggled from Ft Benton) with someone always in the brig, desertions, officers drunk as well, weekly dances in town with native and Métis women, fights, prairie fires, horse races & shooting contests/gambling, NWMP deaths from heart attacks, TB, drowning, ..."*

In June 1875, 50 men of F troop arrived at the confluence of the Elbow and Bow Rivers. The location was selected because it was near the principal ford of the Bow River. May to July was high water and could be a perilous crossing, but with no dams upstream it would have been a fairly easy river crossing at other times of the year. There were established trails from the Bow River ford north to Edmonton and west to Morley. From Hudson's Bay to Edmonton, freight was charged 10 cents/lb for 1,000 miles. Twenty-five ox carts made the journey north to Edmonton each month.

Within two weeks of the NWMP's arrival, contractors started construction of a palisaded fort; ironically, built by IG Baker, American contractors & ex- Confederate soldiers, out of Fort Benton. McDougall, the Methodist missionary, speaks well of IG Baker men in 1873; not so well of Fort Benton:

*"troops in an adobe fort hunting Indians, no school, no church and all men armed - bull whackers, wolfers, fur traders, mule punchers, whiskey traders, and desperadoes".*

Pine logs to build the fort came from 10 kms up the Elbow River. John Glenn built the fireplaces. The fort was soon overrun by mice, but a local Métis settler had a cat; and the need was so great, a horse was traded for the cat.



*Glenbow Archives. About 1876. The first palisaded Fort Calgary looking NW to Bow River and North Hill from Elbow River east bank. Not a tree in sight. Cliffs to west are near Centre St bridge today.*

The new fort spurred the Hudson's Bay trading post to move from Ghost River. IG Baker also set-up a trading post, extending their ox train route from Fort Benton to Fort Macleod further north. Freight was charged at 3 cents/lb from New Orleans. Calgary's first billiard table was transported by oxen from Ft. Benton and located in the IG Baker trading post. Later with the arrival of the CPR, all the hotels would have a billiard room. The tables would serve as beds if the hotel was full; the rate discounted from the normal charge per hour.

Fort Calgary was reduced to an outpost with only a few constables by 1878, as a larger NWMP presence was required at Blackfoot Crossing and at Fort Macleod near the large Blackfoot Treaty Seven reservations. In 1881 Calgary's population was 75, consisting of a police post, 16 log cabins and 9 teepees. Calgary might have remained an outpost for decades, but for the 1882 federal election that brought the Conservatives back to power. They acceded to the CPR's preference for a southern route instead of through Edmonton, rigging an exaggerated agricultural potential assessment contrary to the decades earlier Palliser Expedition Report in order to secure British financing. It was a very poor route choice on an engineering basis.

The NWMP had been planning to support the North Saskatchewan River route and had to scramble quickly as they had only one year's notice before the railway arrived in Calgary. In 1882, the NWMP pulled-down the decrepit 1875 fort and erected new buildings on the site, without a palisade this time. The replica buildings on the historical park site today reflect the 1882 fort.

### **7C.5 Ranching**

Once the NWMP arrived at Fort Macleod, the first cattle were driven up the Kootenay Valley in 1874, to service the new market and take advantage of range security. Cattle were regularly driven north from Montana. By 1877, the cattle market became entrenched as the bison vanished and the government was responsible for feeding the Treaty 7 bands.

Twenty-one year leases were awarded to Eastern Canada & British investors with political connections in Ottawa and access to large pools of capital to start a ranch. The leases on the plains were soon abandoned because the cattle could not survive a harsh winter. The foothills from Calgary west were the natural terrain. The ranches were huge - for example, the Cochrane Ranch extended from Calgary to Morley on both sides of the river. The ranchers such as Thomas Riley (Riley Park) who ranched/farmed in Hillhurst and west along the Bow Valley also bought CPR sections (see 7C.7 Railway) for access to the river valleys. The large leases were allowed to expire in 1896 to enhance the incoming wave of farming homesteaders; though ranchers could buy back 10% of the original lease area and apply for a lease on the rest. Small and medium size ranches were started-up at this time on the relinquished lands, many by ex-NWMP troopers. Many of the English buyers were remittance men.

### **7C.6 Remittance Men**

Between 1880 and 1914, thousands of English remittance men came to the Canadian West, prodded overseas by a rapidly changing British society. They were second or later sons of British aristocracy that previously could be bought a commission in the army (Wingfield & his Father) or a place in the church (Wingfield's Uncle), but when these became institutions of merit, the sons who were a disgrace to the family were sent to the colonies with a sum of money and regular transfers of money to stay there.

### **7C.7 Railway**

The first scheme to build a transcontinental railway halted in 1872 because of the Pacific Financing Scandal with only a section of the Ontario leg built. A new contract would not be signed with the CPR

until 1880. The bill giving CPR a charter was read into law on Feb 15th, 1881. Amazingly, the first train arrived in Calgary two years later during August 1883, preceded two weeks earlier by telegraph lines.

There were lots of typhoid cases in the CPR camps. In 1884, Calgary had the dubious honour of having the first brothel in the NW Territories to be closed by the NWMP. Prostitutes had arrived a year earlier following the railway line. The brothel owner paid a fine and left town to the end of the track at Laggan and set-up operations once more.

The Calgary Herald first published the same month the railway arrived. Calgary was now directly connected to the world and changed overnight. After the fast pace of building across the prairies, the four mountain ranges to be crossed to the Pacific slowed progress down considerably. The first through-train Montreal-to-Vancouver arrived in Calgary on July 1st, 1886.

The Dominion Land Act of 1871 provided for the surveying of the Canadian Prairies in an orderly and precise manner, thereby making the land available for settlement. Using the U.S. Homestead Act of 1862 as a guide, the federal government proposed that settlers could homestead a quarter-section of land, 160 acres, for the sum of \$10. The requirements for gaining ownership of this land were three years residency, construction of a dwelling and clearing of a stipulated amount of land (usually 15 acres). The survey of what later became Saskatchewan and Alberta began in 1881. The township that includes Calgary was surveyed in 1883 with a map produced in 1884. The railway had arrived in Calgary before the legal survey map was completed.

The CPR contract with the government gave them effectively 44% of the arable land in the west. The prospect of selling this land to homesteaders allowed the CPR to raise capital in London to build the railway. The land was to be selected from the odd-numbered sections (excluding allotted school lands) in a belt of land 24 miles on each side of the main line. Unlike the American scheme whereby railway companies had to accept all alternate sections on each side of the main line irrespective of the quality of the land, the contract with the CPR specified that the land must be "fairly fit for settlement."

When the CPR arrived in Calgary, the fort and settlement was on the east side of the Elbow River and lots were offered to the CPR for purchase at a steep profit to the sellers. The CPR declined and moved to the west side of the Elbow onto an odd numbered section where they built their station and it was the CPR who offered lots for sale. That winter, most of the east side ramshackle buildings were skidded across the Elbow River ice onto newly purchased CPR lots. In 1884, Calgary incorporated as a town of ~1,000 people.

The Canadian North-West, including Manitoba, is now recognized as the Great Wheat and Grain Producing Country of the World. The Lands of the CANADA NORTH-WEST LAND COMPANY are situated in the most desirable parts of this fertile Country, and are offered at Low Prices, without Settlement or Cultivation Conditions.

---

**INTENDING SETTLERS**  
Should examine the list of Lands for Sale by the

**CANADA NORTH-WEST LAND CO. Limited**  
**COMPRISING 5,000,000 ACRES**

Distributed through the Most Fertile and Desirable parts of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West

---

**THE RAILWAY BELT**  
The Company offer for sale choice sections throughout the Canadian Pacific Railway Main Line Belt, and in the vicinity of all the Towns and Cities on the line west of Portage la Prairie. These include all the following numbers undisposed of: 1, 9, 13, **21**, 25, 33, and in the neighbourhood of Regina and Moosomin, all odd numbered sections except School Sections.

**SOUTHERN MANITOBA--SOURIS--MOOSE MOUNTAIN**  
All Canadian Pacific Railway Lands south of the Railway belt have been acquired by this Company. This tract includes Southern Manitoba and the well-known Souris and Moose Mountain Districts.

**AN ADVANTAGEOUS SELECTION**  
The Company's lands extend over such an immense area of excellent country, and include such a great diversity of the best agricultural land, that an almost unlimited selection is offered, which cannot fail to meet the requirements of all settlers, whether they intend to follow stock, grain, or mixed farming.

**FAVOURABLE TERMS**  
The lands are offered without conditions as to settlement or cultivation.  
Usual Terms are: One-sixth Cash; balance in five equal annual instalments. Interest at Six per cent. per annum, payable in advance.  
Canadian Pacific Railway Land Grant Bonds taken at ten per cent. premium and accrued interest.

---

A Farm in the North-West, well situated, fertile, productive, and ready for the plough, costs less than clearing half the amount of land in a wooded country. The CANADA NORTH-WEST LAND COMPANY have lands of this description in the midst of settlements, and convenient to churches, schools and markets.

*A CPR ad for 640 acre agricultural lots for sale along the completed portion of the railway in 1882. Note that section 21 (Sunnyside and Rosedale) is a designated CPR section. The survey map of west of 5th Meridian, that includes Calgary, was not issued until 1884. Much to Felix McHugh's loss.*

### 7C.8 First Townspeople

The first people who arrived in Calgary with the railway were middle aged men of means from Eastern Canada - shopkeepers, trades people, and professionals. They were eastern Canadians of English & Scottish heritage with a grammar school education and Presbyterian or Methodist in religious practice. The Eastern papers and newsmagazines were full of stories every week extolling the unlimited opportunities of the NW Territories to be unleashed by the railway. The adventurer, the entrepreneur, and the younger sons of established Eastern families were drawn west. Over 75% of citizens were from cities. The rich had no reason to go to Calgary. The poor could not afford to go. When the Calgary elite

emerged it was as the nouveau riche. They craved material success and recognition in society. A typical example is I.S. Freeze, a dry goods merchant:

*In 1883, Freeze left his family in New Brunswick and went west with a partner checking out stations along the CPR west of Winnipeg as it was built. He was not impressed. He walked to Calgary from the railhead and paid a Mormon to haul his gear. He was very impressed with the Calgary site. He took the train back to Winnipeg and bought \$3,000 of goods that would cost \$1,000 to ship. He had a rough store built in east Calgary while he lived in a tent. He moved it west on the ice of the Elbow River to the new CPR town site that winter. He wrote home to say he made \$1,000 profit in the two busy summer months. His family joined him in 1884. Later photos show him quite prosperous.*



*Glenbow Archives. Fire aftermath Calgary, November, 1886. It appears the dry goods from Freeze's store are out in the street with the interior of the store burned-out, though the sign is undamaged. Calgary rebuilt in sandstone after the fire and continued to build in sandstone up to 1913.*



## 7. Appendix D - Calgary History

### 7D.1 Calgary 1884-1896

Calgary's population grew from the 1,000 of 1884 to 3,900 by 1893. Local industry grew with the town - Eau Claire Lumber, quarry and brickworks, CPR yards in Ogden, ranching, and meat packing. Calgary's first power plant was built in 1893 at a weir on Prince's Island by Eau Claire Lumber; it was not very reliable. The Edmonton-Calgary railway was being built in 1892.

Calgary was still a rough frontier town in 1892. Harry Longabaugh, the Sundance Kid portrayed by Robert Redford in the movie, was co-owner of the Grand Central Hotel saloon across from the CPR station until moving south to join the Butch Cassidy gang. In 1891, smallpox was detected in a Chinese resident that led to anti-Chinese riots and the NWMP patrolling streets. There was a 2/1 ratio of men to women. For the working man, life must have been all work, much like the remote oil sands camps of today:

*"In those days Calgary was a very dull place, as there were no places to go. Then finally the Salvation Army came to town. There were three fine girls that came to open up the meetings. Their meetings were well attended by men all the time."* Eau Claire worker 1880s/90s.

There was no rush of immigrant farmers to the prairies after the CPR was built. The NW Territories only averaged 3,000 homestead claims a year from 1874-1896 and many of those were taken up by speculators and later relinquished. Expat English gentry tried to replicate the rural squire-tenant relationship of England, but were foiled because why be a tenant when you could farm for yourself. There was actually a net exodus of farmers from Manitoba to the US. The period 1885-1896 was a long decade of economic malaise, low grain prices, and unsuccessful pitches to NW European & American potential settlers.

### 7D.2 1896-1914

An 1896 change to a Liberal federal government coincided with an economic upturn and a new policy of redirecting settler recruitment to the non-Protestant European peasant heartland and at the same time forcing the CPR to select their land tract entitlements they had been delaying for a decade in order to avoid paying taxes. The East Europeans immigrants selected homesteads in the aspen belt to the north, avoiding the dry land farming belt of the southern prairies. The recruitment was spectacularly successful; not so much because of the "pull" of Canada, but more due to the "push" at home from dire conditions.

American farmers migrated to southern Alberta. They were usually second or third generation experienced grain farmers. One-third of the CPR tracts were purchased by immigrants from the US. They sold their existing US farms at \$60/acre and were buying Canadian land at \$5/acre. They had more capital than the East Europeans and instead of settling for a 160 acre homestead they were able to buy full sections of land near the railway with the plan of exporting grain for profit. Many of these farms were in the Palliser Triangle of southern Alberta and were abandoned during the 1930s dust bowl.

Calgary had a contrary view to the Liberal federal government on East European immigration. The 1898 City Council that objected to the January tennis photo (section 4.1), also took the opportunity to advocate for a better class of emigrant as a reaction to the wave of farming settlers that had begun arriving two years earlier. Fortunately for Alberta, the Minister of the Interior, Sir Clifford Sifton, ignored their advice, responding:

*"a stalwart peasant in a sheep-skin coat, born on the soil, whose forefathers have been farmers for ten generations, with a stout wife and a half dozen children, is a good quality."*

Sifton was Manitoba born and understood the farming potential of the Territories and the type of immigrant needed. He promoted the immigration of groups like the Ukrainians, Poles, Hungarians, Romanians, Icelanders, and Russian Dukhobours & Mennonites over the Calgary Council's suggestion of more ethnically "desirable" British immigrants.

The Council's prejudices were replicated by the Calgary press:

*"What is this country coming to? Doukhobors pouring in by the thousands on the eastern slope, Galicians [Ukrainians] swarming over the central portions, and rats taking possession of Dawson City, one would imagine that Canada had become a veritable dumping ground for the refuse of civilization." Calgary Herald Editorial 2nd February, 1899.*

The 1896-1914 wave of Prairie immigration turned Calgary into a boom town. Calgary's population had not grown between 1889 and 1900, but grew to 56,500 people by 1914, a 14-fold increase. Along with the American farmers, Americans also migrated to the city seeking opportunities. It was the time of the Klondike Gold Rush and Calgary was the prairie equivalent with the same influx of adventurers, hustlers & entrepreneurs moving to a frontier to make their fortune. By 1911, Americans comprised one-third of the Calgary population and were very active in real estate promotion, having cut their teeth in the earlier American West land booms. Calgary's Mount Royal community of today was called American Hill in 1910 because of their real estate promotions. A clerk in the land titles office bought a city lot in 1904 for \$825 and sold it in 1911 to developers for \$105,000.

Streetcars began running in 1909 with the network extended to the newly annexed village of Crescent Heights in 1911 (maybe like B.C. at Confederation, this was the terms the village demanded in acceding to annexation?). In 1911, Calgary Power built the Horseshoe Dam upstream on the Bow to establish a reliable supply of electricity. Citizens were not too sure about this new utility though, as shown by a sign posted by one of the hotels:

*"This room is equipped with Edison Electric Light. Do not attempt to light with a match. Simply turn the key on the wall by the door. The use of electricity for lighting is in no way harmful to health, nor does it affect the soundness of sleep."*

Gas arrived from Bow Island in 1912, funded by the CPR, after the City had unwisely funded a local dry exploration well. Alberta came into Confederation as a province in 1905 during this boom period. The Edmonton - Calgary rivalry was bitter at this time, as Edmonton was chosen as the provincial capital and then subsequently, there was a double-cross (to Calgary's understanding) by the provincial party in power when they also gave Strathcona (now part of Edmonton) the provincial university. Strathcona was the riding of the premier. The north - south rivalry got started long before today's sports team competitions. Though in retrospect Calgary hasn't made out too badly, as the CPR would have been best built through the Yellowhead Pass and the oil industry could just as easily have been based in Edmonton.

### 7D.3 1914-1925

The economic boom in Calgary came to an abrupt end with the start of WWI. The population only increased 1.5-fold over the first two decades of this period. There was no post-war boom as anticipated. By 1920, automobiles and tractors replaced horses, the streets were paved with tar, and the King George Hotel Grill offered an orchestra both at lunch and during the evening. There was a brief renaissance in the late 1920s, but this was followed by the Depression and WWII. It would not be until after WWII that prosperous economic times came again. The population increase was a modest 1.5-fold from 1931 to 1951 - mostly due to the natural birth rate. This long period without new immigration would allow Calgary to establish an identity for its self.



*Glenbow Archives. A streetcar going up the hill from Sunnyside to Crescent Heights. Note that the eastern portion of Sunnyside (New Edinburgh) is largely undeveloped. The houses at the base of the 7a St NW promontory in the distance would later be removed by the City as the slope above kept sliding.*

The history of Calgary post-WWI is continued in Appendix E, utilizing the details of Rosedale and the surrounding communities development history.

## **Appendix E - Rosedale & Neighbouring Communities History**

For the 148 years since the launch of lawn tennis and the coincidental arrival of the first settler in Calgary, Rosedale area has gone through four distinct phases. For the first 41 years of this period, Rosedale was open prairie used as cow pasture after the bison were slaughtered. The villages of Sunnyside and Crescent Heights started-up about 1900 and were soon annexed to the City as it expanded. The 15 year economic boom came to a sudden halt with WWI, and for the next 25 years Rosedale sat as a partially developed community, weathering out the Depression & WWII, with the western portion that includes the RTC courts, mostly undeveloped. This was followed by 50 years as a modest bungalow community except for a few large houses located along Crescent Road. It is only in the last 20 years that Rosedale has experienced significant housing redevelopment and become a high income neighbourhood.

### **7E.1 1873-1925**

Rosedale sits on top of 40m of glacial sediments, consisting of alternating layers of clays and silts. This makes it easy to dig fence posts by hand, unlike digging the rocks in the glacial till of neighbourhoods further to the NW. The bad news is that ground water runs at the base of the silt layers and out to McHugh Bluff where the slope will fail periodically; most recently in 2021. There was a major slide in 1932. In the early days, the springs along the slope were a source of clean water to the people of Sunnyside. Patrick Burns Park on 10th St. NW had a spring that was used by Rosedale's early residents before piped water was installed.

The streetcar route up the hill above the curling rink was always under repair due to slope failure. At one time there were four houses on top of the escarpment than were too close to the edge and needed to be removed. A row of houses at the base of the slope was removed in 1948 when the slope failed. The City bought the houses and graded the slope to its Present Day reduced angle at a cost of \$1mm.

The Rosedale/Crescent Heights escarpment may have been a bison jump site used by the indigenous peoples. A walking tour published by the Sunnyside Community Association describes a bone bed at the bottom of the cliff below 7A Street. If a bison jump, it would be an unusual location for one because most jumps faced east to take advantage of the prevailing west wind. An alternative scenario is that the bones are from a herd that was swept away by a flood while crossing upstream. A large bone bed found when excavating the Harry Hays building downtown is interpreted to be a 500 - 700 year old flood displacement of bones. The base of McHugh Bluff in Sunnyside was an active cut bank of the Bow River subject to eroding flood seasons over hundreds of years. This also explains why Sunnyside basements flood as the houses are built on top of 8m of flood plain cobbles and gravel.

On the hill top that is now Rosedale, a Sunnyside resident remembered so many buffalo bones, you couldn't walk without stepping on one. They were gathered up in 1914 by the government to make animal feed. The area was also a native peoples' burial ground. One site is just south of RTC at the Sherriff King house (built 1911) on the escarpment overlooking the Bow River.

In 1883, Felix McHugh homesteaded Sunnyside from 4th St NW to 9A St NW. McHugh first came to the Calgary area in 1880, working on the government farm where the Sheep River meets the Bow River. On his homestead, he worked two small sandstone quarries (Paskapoo Sandstone Formation) at each end of his property at the base of the escarpment. There was a third quarry where the field of crosses is located along Memorial Drive, Present Day. The sandstone blocks were skidded across the river during winter and used to build the original courthouse, the first sandstone building in Calgary. There was also a small brick manufacturing operation in what is now Riley Park; presumably using the clay facies of the



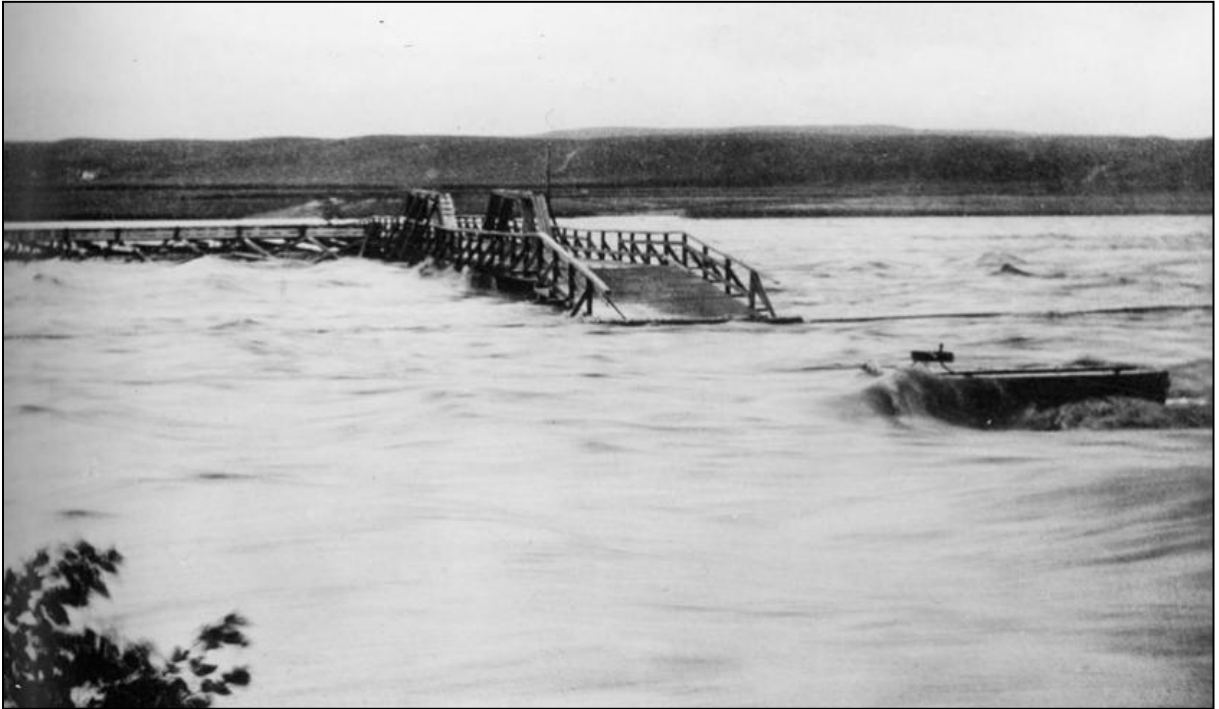
Paskapoo Fm. The later and much larger quarries located along the railway at Edworthy Park and Glenbow Ranch supplied the sandstone for the pre-WWI Calgary building boom, including Balmoral School on 16th Ave. & 2nd St. NW in 1913. Sunnyside and Rosedale were found when surveyed later in 1883 to be located in section 15, allocated to the CPR. McHugh had to relinquish his homestead. His quarries were worked for another decade in an arrangement with a building contractor.



*Glenbow Archives. 1893 Photo of Prince's Island from north side of Bow River. Taken near where Centre Street is today. The weir at the Eau Claire lumber mill provided Calgary's first electricity starting in 1894 on a ten year contract basis. There were three sandstone quarries on the north side of the Bow River.*

There was a ferry crossing near the Present Day Centre Street Bridge operating in 1882 called Fogg's Ferry. In 1888, bridges over the Bow River were built at Louise Crossing and also downstream where Reconciliation Bridge is now located. The Louise Crossing bridge was built on piles and named Bow-Marsh, after a land agent named Marsh, with funds coming from the City and Territorial government. Ironically, marsh was also a good name for the Sunnyside area as it was plagued by mosquitoes from all the sloughs. The Safeway on 10th St was originally a popular swimming hole and skating pond - water extended almost to the base of the bluff. What is now 10th St. NW became the preferred route to Morley. The original trail stayed on the high ground between Confederation Park and the escarpment to the ford near Fort Calgary, cutting into what became Rosedale at the corner of 4th St. NW & 16th Ave. But with the Bow-Marsh bridge, the Sunnyside short-cut became the main route.

Calgary development was much slower on the north side of the Bow River than the south, where the railway was located. In 1884, William Pearce (NW Territories Superintendent of Mines) cleared the north side of the Bow River of squatters, securing the land as a scenic drive. The CPR sold its land in Sunnyside to a developer and the village grew as an independent settlement. Sunnyside was settled by trades people; many worked in the CPR Ogden yards. Sunnyside was annexed by the City in 1904. With the annexation, Diamond Dolley's brothel moved to the eastern portion of what is now Bridgeland, once again located outside city limits. The east part of Sunnyside, where the streets run north-south, was surveyed in 1911. It was known as New Edinburgh because of all the Scots who lived there.



*Glenbow Archives. Bow Marsh Bridge destroyed by 1902 flood. CPR bridges were also damaged. Dykes were built along the south bank to protect the city. Photo is looking north towards North Hill.*

Bridgeland was originally known as German Town as its residents were 90% German-speaking Russians who arrived in the 1896-1914 immigration wave. Riverside was the local name. Bridgeland water came from wells into the late 1920s. There were three Chinese market gardens along the river on land rented from the City. It was a very poor area. The Italian identity came about with later immigration.

Crescent Heights/Rosedale area was initially important due to its excellent cattle-pasture land. Cattle herds were driven along 16th Ave. and down 4th St. East to the stockyards. Crescent Heights was an independent community, mostly settled by trades people who worked in the City across the river. It was annexed by Calgary in 1911.

The first bridge at Centre Street was built by J.A. MacArthur in 1906, founder (1895) and real estate promoter of Crescent Heights. MacArthur's real estate office was near where Mt Pleasant Tennis Club is located today; the area was called Mt Pleasant at the time, hence the club's name. Lands where Rotary Park and Crescent Park are now located were owned by MacArthur and held back from development when other lots he owned were sold. The land was sold to the City in the 1920s by his estate at discounted prices to generate cash needed by the family.

MacArthur's bridge was constructed without any consideration for road alignment, or even government approval, as MacArthur simply bought land on either side of the river and started building. It was offered to the City for the construction cost of \$17,000, but the City turned it down. The footpath from Centre Street to McHugh Bluff is the switchback road that connected the bridge to MacArthur's house located where the Church of Latter Day Saints is now located. The bridge deteriorated quickly and after a few years was used by pedestrians only. No matter, as a tram from Sunnyside, angling up the escarpment from 2nd Ave. NW, where the paved bike & footpath above the curling rink is now located, had already connected Crescent Heights to the city. A road for cars was built along side. The flood of 1915 swept the

rickety bridge away. The present bridge was built in 1916. Centre St. originally had houses all the way down the hill to the bridge, but slope failures caused their removal; the same problems as with McHugh Bluff. A streetcar loop up 10th St. NW, along 16th Ave. NW, and down Centre St was built.

One commissioned development plan by the City from the early boom years would have terraced McHugh Bluff with housing on a terrace half way up the slope. Probably a dodgy engineering scheme given the nature of the glacial sediments..



*Glenbow Archives. Buildings located at base of slope in New Edinburgh (East Sunnyside) in 1911. Slope failures led to removal of most houses at the base of the hill in later decades.*

Rosedale land was first acquired by a developer in 1904 from the CPR and traded hands several times in the next few years. A 1907 plan, not realized, shows the street plan of Crescent Heights, east of 4th St. NW, continuing west to what is now Rosedale. What is now known as the Bishop's Palace was built by one of the early Rosedale land developers in 1911 and subsequently sold to the Roman Catholic diocese in 1919. McHugh Bluff was popular with sightseers in those days, as it is today - open air sightseeing streetcars would run on weekends along 2nd Ave. NW in Sunnyside and then up the hill following approximately the same route as today's paved bike path above the curling rink.

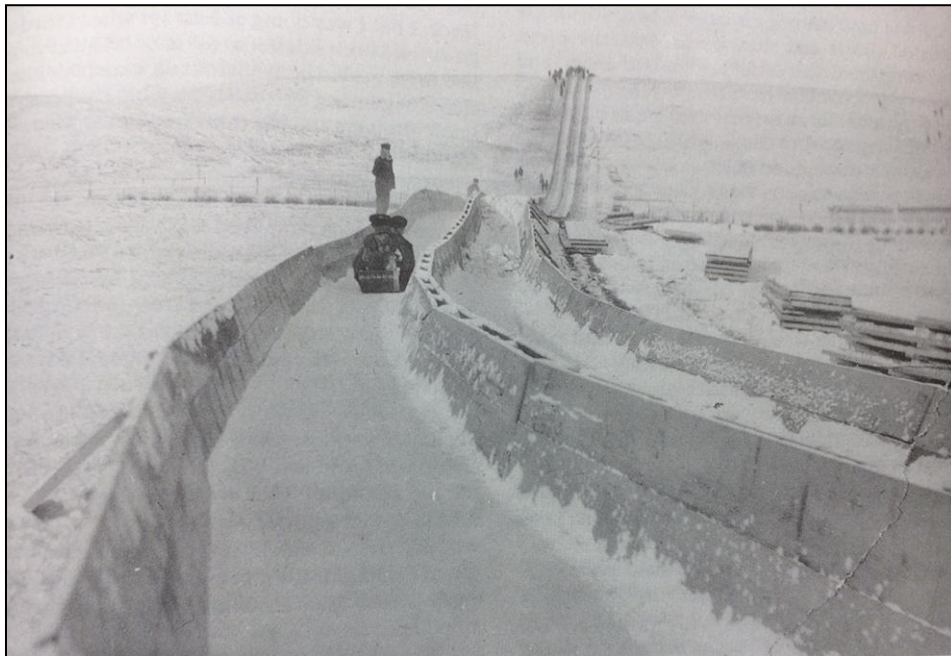
## **7E.2 1925 - 1950**

Calgary suffered an economic depression after the 1896 - 1914 boom. The 1907 development plan for Rosedale housing was delayed until 1928 when the streets were finally surveyed and built. Rosedale was the fastest growing area of Calgary from 1928 - 1930, but the 1930s Depression slowed development down such that some lots were returned to the City to pay for tax arrears. Some families lived in basements and finished the above ground dwelling as funds allowed over several years. Many lots

remained vacant. Large vegetable gardens were common. The residents took in boarders from SAIT to help with finances. There were dirt roads, wood sidewalks, milk carts pulled by horse, ice from Bowness, lots of gophers, saskatoon berries on the hill, several ice ponds for skating and caves on the escarpment to play in.

The north side of the Bow River in the Rosedale area benefits from a disproportionate number of parks. These parks are the fortuitous outcome of the economic downturn after WWI. The exception is Riley Part which was donated to the City by the Riley family in 1910 as they sold-off portions of their land to developers. But, the abrupt halt in the housing boom three years later left lots of land earmarked for housing with no possibility of being developed in the near term. The land was vacant and accruing taxes. Rotary Park along Centre Street, Crescent Heights Park and SAIT would have all been developed as housing similar to Rosedale, but the owners needed funds and were forced to sell parcels to the City which prompted by Reader, chose to develop the land as parks. In addition, to the serendipitous addition of parks, Rosedale & Crescent Heights also have the highest concentration of heritage trees in Calgary.

SAIT, Rosedale's neighbour to the west, was chosen from amongst four possible locations. An alternative site was along McHugh Bluff on McArthur undeveloped lands between 1st NW and 4th St NW. The technical school had started during the war using a school in Inglewood and students included returning veterans on a grant basis. It was the first publically funded technical school in Canada. Ground at the site was broken in 1921 with land purchased from Thomas Riley. He donated the land for the original building in lieu of the substantial tax arrears he owed the City. The school opened at its new site in 1922.



*A two-track toboggan run from top of SAIT Hill into Riley Park in 1920s. Looks like quite a ride.*

The other north communities outside the Sunnyside-Bridgeland-Crescent Heights core had similar histories to Rosedale: annexed by the City during the pre-WWI boom, a building start and then a long hiatus, but without full development until the 1950s. An exception is Renfrew, home to Calgary's first public airfield from 1925 - 1946; it was the first in Canada with lights for night landing which must have



thrilled Rosedale residents when the planes landed from the west. It was used by the SAIT-based Commonwealth aviation training school during WWII; including one pilot who managed to crash his plane a couple blocks north of RTC's future site in 1940. Hillhurst, West Hillhurst, St Andrews, Hounsfield Heights and Briar Hill communities were originally part of the Riley family ranch that ran all the way to Cochrane. St. Andrews Heights was a golf course on leased Riley land from 1912 to 1945, and subdivided for housing only in 1953.

Many small business were found along 16th Ave. NW servicing the community: grocery stores, beauty salons, and gas stations. The original Chesney Hardware was located at 237 16th Ave NW; the Chesneys lived in Rosedale. 16th Ave. NW became a major thoroughfare after it was surveyed in 1884 as a township boundary. It connected to Morley and Banff Trails for journeys west. It was on the street car grid, connecting at 10th St. NW & Centre St.

In 1934, the first meeting of what became the Social Credit Party took place in Rosedale, organized by a member of Crescent Heights PTA, attracting William Aberhart who was principal of the school. In 1935 he became Premier, as voters dumped the established political parties.



*WWII Photo of SAIT Wireless School Complex with western Rosedale undeveloped.*

Development was minimal through WWII years. The area west of 7a St NW, from Crescent Road to 14th Ave NW, including the RCA lease lands, remained undeveloped. With 15 years of no development, the residents took it upon themselves to build a 7 hole golf course in the 1930s & 40s. There were many hills

then, the greens were sand and every autumn the prairie grasses were burned-off. The course didn't extend north of 14th Ave. NW because the City used the corner of 10th St. NW and 16th Ave. NW as a garbage dump. The golf course was not as posh as St. Andrews Golf Course to the west, but it had no fees and it is likely the kids who grew up on the course could beat many of the duffers at St Andrews.



*Calgary Airport 1929 - 1939 in Renfrew. Photo is looking NE. Surrounding land on both sides of 16th Ave. NW was still small farms at that time. The hanger is used today as part of the community centre.*

In 1940, SAIT was closed and became a wireless training centre for 2,000 Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian airmen housed in barracks on the hill and surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. Relations with Rosedale residents were good with teas and organized social events. Ron Beugin relates "*my parents lived there after my Dad returned from the war, along with my older brother who was a baby.*" Bill McKnight, Canada's WWII flying ace, after whom McKnight Blvd is named, lived in Rosedale.

1945 saw the start of another building boom in Calgary. Most new residents were from Eastern Canada or the Prairies with a few from the UK and US. The City surveyed and put in services in west Rosedale. Lead was used for the water pipes because copper was scarce due to the war. There are still some lead pipes which the City plans to finally replace in 2021, after analyses showed the lead content in the water

is over the new WHO standards. The current RTC location was on "Olive St", later renamed as 11th Ave. NW.

### **7E.3 1950 - 2000**

The last Rosedale lot was sold in 1950 and the same year the Community Association was formed, breaking off from the North Hill Community Association based in Crescent Heights. The community hall was built in 1952/53 from resident donations on a site leased from the City - the first wholly community-funded building in Calgary. There was a regulation size ice rink located where the boarded rink is located today. In winter there was a coffee shop for skaters and a warm place to change skates. Rosedale School, located across 11th Ave. NW from RCA, was built in 1955 and opened in 1956. Prior to this, the neighbourhood children went to school at SAIT where a demonstration program associated with the teacher's training college was operating.

A western extension to the community building was added in 1984, as shown in the photo below, using proceeds from a casino and resident donations. Beugin Hall, filling in the upper floor gap, was added in 2011. It is named after Ron Beugin, RTC President from 2003 - 2013, who coordinated the construction project for the community..



*Original Community Centre Building in 1953 looking south. Note the lack of trees - the large poplars that ring the green area today, and have been the cause of much grief to RTC over the decades, were not planted until 1964. Their life expectancy is 70 - 80 years with about one-third already removed.*





*Pre-2011 Rosedale Community Centre photo looking south with the western extension to the original 1953 building added in 1984..*

#### **8E.4 2000 - 2021**

Calgary's population grew by 400,000 from 2000 to 2021. The inner city neighbourhoods became attractive to downtown workers to avoid long commutes and for pedestrian access to work, shops & restaurants. Rosedale's 1930s & 1940s bungalows sat on large lots and were prime for redevelopment. Over 30% of Rosedale's housing stock has been replaced over the past 20 years, driven more recently by developers buying bungalows and building new houses on spec. This activity kept pace through the recent 6 year economic downturn and seems likely to continue. The first lane house developments have commenced. The 2021 North Hill Development Plan and its changes in codes, will result in significant densification of the neighbouring communities over the next 30 years, especially Crescent Heights Community. In contrast, Rosedale will likely only be minimally effected, except along the 4th St. NW perimeter.