

# The Bowness Beacon

Established December 6, 1952. Donald W. Davies, Founder

**A Publication of the Bowness Historical Society**

8907 – 33rd Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3B 1M2 - ([www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com))

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Membership fee in the Bowness Historical Society is \$10 per year. New members are welcomed. Send your name, address and fee to the address above. All members receive the Bowness Beacon newsletter. Your fees will support the activities of the Society in recording and celebrating the history of Bowness. **Please let us record your family history or photos so that nobody is forgotten.** For more information, please call (403) 288-1737 or 288-2055.

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## SUMMER 2012 EDITION FEATURING:

- The Naming of Hextall Park
- Soldiers' Settlement Pioneers
- Historic Homes of Bowness Tour –presented by Dr. Judith Barge, Director of the Bowness Historical Society.
- **Bowness Historical Society Annual General Meeting, September 29**
- The Society's new book: "*Bowness: Past and Present 1911 - 2011*" on sale
- Reprint of the Society's first book ("*Bowness: Our Village in the Valley*"), also on sale now. Purchase either or both books using the Order Form at the end of this newsletter or contact us at the phone numbers provided below.

## THE NAMING OF HEXTALL PARK

The Bowness Historical Society has applied to The City of Calgary to have the unnamed park located adjacent to the John Hextall Bridge on the Bowness side of the Bow River named "John Hextall Park". An application has been sent to the City's Names Committee, which will review the same within the next month. Should the Committee recommend approval of the name, the BHS will provide further documents showing community support for this proposed name. Following submission of the further documents, the proposed name will be considered for approval by Council Committee and City Council.

The application could come before City Council for approval some time before the end of 2012. We will keep you posted on the progress of this project. The support of Bowness Historical Society members and Bowness residents is critical to the success of this initiative. John Hextall was Bowness' first citizen, who brought the Hextall Bridge, Bowness Park and the street railway to Bowness in the early 1900s. The Society has received support from many individuals and the Bowness Revitalization Zone executive. Please contact Society Director Anne Campbell at [annecampbell2@shaw.ca](mailto:annecampbell2@shaw.ca) for more information.

## THE SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT – "VLA"

This issue of the newsletter recognizes the residents of the "Soldiers' Settlement area of Bowness, an early part of Bowness developed in 1946 under the Veterans' Land Act (VLA). The Society's new book ("*Bowness: Past and Present 1911 - 2011*") provides a history of the Soldiers' Settlement and its founding settlers. The following provides vignettes of some of these early residents, who lived on Alexander Avenue (now 36 Avenue). They reside in Calgary, except for Dorothy Porter, who still resides in Bowness.

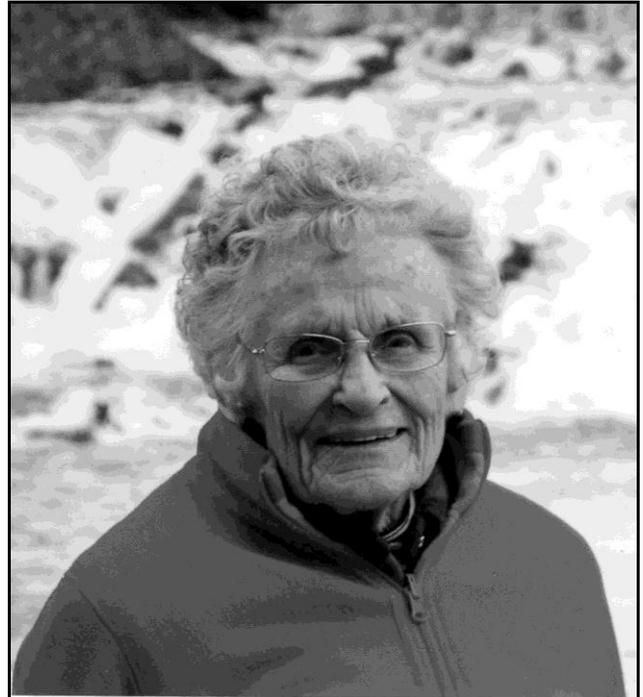
### Betty Everett

This is the note that Betty wrote for the Bowness Beacon - "I arrived in Bowness as a war bride with my husband Doug and two sons, Tony and Richard in 1946. We bought a house in the Soldiers' Settlement.

Spent many wonderful years there. We were like one big family - 48 of us. We raised three more boys Don, Bob and Bruce.. All went to school in Bowness. Sadly, Doug passed away in 1972 after we had moved to Calgary in 1968. I am now 91 years and still very active. I enjoy belonging to the Bowness Seniors Centre and the Bowness Historical Society. Although I live in Calgary, my most wonderful memories are the years I spent in Bowness. Hello to my old friends who are still left."



**Betty Everett on her 91st birthday, 2012**



**Betty Ross**

### **Betty Ross**

Betty and Bruce Ross purchased their home for \$5,500, one of the 46 homes the government built in the Soldiers' Settlement in Bowness, in 1946. Betty says, "We developed many great lasting friendships with our neighbors. We had fun evenings together with all the neighbors over the years. We couldn't have found a better place to live and raise our families."

### **Charlie and Vida McIntyre**

The McIntyres moved to the Soldiers' Settlement in the early 1960s from another area in Bowness. Their neighbors were Eleanor Geddes, Roy and Betty Bee, the Howes and the Birds. The one thing that Vida really appreciated about living there was the nice soft water she had before the City of Calgary annexed the Town of Bowness.

### **Ted and Jean Sinclair**

Ted and Jean Sinclair moved to the VLA on May 24, 1946. Their neighbors were Harold and Helen Leclaire, Doug and Betty Everett, Jerry and Rosemary Ellison, and Mr. and Mrs. McArthur. In Ted's recent letter to the Bowness Historical Society, on living in the Soldiers' Settlement, he recalled, "I have spent hours looking at pictures and places and homes as they changed over the years. It was a wonderful time and place to have had our families born and raised. Our children and grandchildren will have many

memories of that time as they read the book.” Ted and Jean left Bowness in 2010 and moved to Vulcan. Sadly, Jean passed away on July 21, 2012.



**Ted and Jean Sinclair**



**Charlie and Vida McIntyre - on their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, March 2012**

**Nick and Val Olenick**

Nick, age 87, and Ethel (Val), age 86, Olenick lived in the Soldiers’ Settlement from 1957 to 1972. In their family history, daughter Dianne recalls that growing up in Bowness was a truly unique experience and a very stable community with families being neighbors for many years. Nick and Ethel were both very involved in the formation of the Bowness Community Club, built and operated the community skating rink, organized hockey teams and winter carnivals, and formed a teen centre.



**Nick Olenick**



**Val Olenick**

## **Dorothy Porter**

Dorothy is the daughter of Frank and Sadie Ainsworth, early settlers in Bowness (1939). Dorothy and Elmer Porter moved to their home in the VLA, after the first owners, the Rogers, moved to Lethbridge in 1953. Dorothy remembers “on Christmas Eve one of the men in the Settlement played Santa Claus, visiting all the homes and leaving a present for every child. On Christmas Day, Charlie Mills brought his horse and sleigh to the settlement giving rides to families up and down Alexander Avenue.”



**Dorothy Porter**

## **2012 HISTORIC HOMES TOUR**

The Bowness Historical Society hosted the Bowness Historic Homes Walking Tour on July 29, which was well attended by over 60 people. Dr. Judith Barge, Society Director and researcher of the Hextall era, provided a historical commentary of the homes. These homes were constructed by John Hextall 1912-1913, and have retained their original character. The tour started at the Wallace House, where participants of the tour were welcomed and given refreshments. Participants were also allowed to walk around the yard of the Fraser House. The tour ended at the Arnaud/Jackson House (main floor), where participants were provided with refreshments in the garden. This home has been extensively renovated over the last year, but much of the original beams and woodwork is still present.

The Bowness Historical Society thanks our gracious hosts for providing access to their homes. The Society provided the Tour participants with a brochure describing the Hextall homes. The brochure will shortly be displayed on our website ([www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com)), which is presently being updated. Both Society books provide history and description of the Hextall Homes.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Bowness Historical Society Scholarship Award**

The presentation of the Bowness High School Scholarships and Awards was held on June 20th at Bowness High School. The Bowness Historical Society Award was presented to Nicholas Tan by Board Director Bonnie Laing. Nicholas wrote an essay on the history of the Bowness Boys and Girls Club of Calgary, from its start as Boys Town in 1939. During the 1960s, the Boys Club expanded all over the city and Bowness.

## **Bowness Historical Society – Annual General Meeting**

**Bowness Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 29, 1:00 p.m. at the Bowness Seniors Centre, 6422 - 35 Ave. N.W. All members and interested persons are encouraged to attend. The Board will provide a summary of the last year's activities and financial report. We will provide the Society's Long Range Plan for your consideration and feedback. We will also accept all photos and family histories for our Archives and future book projects. Light refreshments will be provided.**

## **Craft Fair, October 20**

The Bowness Community Association's annual Fall/Christmas Craft Fair will be held at the Bowness Community Hall, 7904 - 43 Ave. N.W., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please check out our booth. Our two books and the 2013 Calendar (featuring the historic homes of Bowness) will be on sale – to help you prepare for Christmas gift-giving.

## **Bowness Entrance Sign**

The Society continues to work with the City of Calgary planning departments for approval of the Bowness Entrance Sign. Please contact Inga Pollhaus at [inga01@telusplanet.net](mailto:inga01@telusplanet.net) for more information.

## **PASSED THIS WAY**

### **Nita Theresa (nee Jones) Boos (1905–2012).**

Nita Theresa Boos passed away at the age of 106 years. Nita was born in Sintaluta, SK on December 22, 1905. She taught school in Calgary and in many rural areas in Alberta. Nita is survived by her son Laurence "Laurie" (Edith) Boos; her sister Elma "Happy" Ferguson; grandchildren, Mitchel, Laurie, Susa (David) Harris, Colleen, and Terri (Dave) Dechka; and five great-grandchildren and five great- great-grandchildren. Nita was predeceased by her husband Charles and her daughter Reta.

### **David Fulton Burgher (1941-2012).**

David is survived by his wife Catharina (Cathy); children, Jannet (Lenworth) Burgher, Sonja (Ricky) Burgher, Norman Burgher, Jim Ross, Michelle (Dan) Willis; grandchildren, Monique Smith, Jessica Willis, Joseph Willis; siblings, Kenneth (Sissy) Burgher, Rowland Burgher, Leslie Burgher, Betsy Henry, Glenn (Luna) Burgher, Jean (Val) Williams, Ruth (Clive) West, Doreth (Gladstone) Roach, Marie (Joe) Clarke and numerous nieces and nephews. David is remembered for his teaching and community service. David promoted intercultural education, multiculturalism and respect for diversity. David served as President of the Calgary Multicultural Centre, Director of the Calgary Committee to Promote Good Citizenship, and member of the Provincial Multicultural Advisory Council. David was awarded the City of Calgary Centennial Award of Merit in 1990 for his "outstanding contribution to the enrichment of life in Calgary."

### **Doreen Marie Chaban (1952–2012).**

Doreen was born in Calgary. She worked in administration most of her working life, primarily in real estate. Doreen enjoyed gambling at casinos in Calgary and in Las Vegas. Doreen is survived by her son Jason Boughton (Nancy Hyson); two grandchildren, Katherine and Drake Boughton; three sisters, Kathy

Burrows (Fred Rees), Sally Scabar (Tom Murdock) and Sandra Conkin; two brothers, Raymond Henry (Helen Marsh) and Robert Henry; three stepchildren, Jason Chaban (Colleen Brennan) and many members of the extended family. She was predeceased by her husband Ron Chaban in 2008.

**Georgie Coldridge (nee Fairweather) (d. 2012).**

Georgie is survived by her husband Kevin Coldridge, mother-in-law Jenny Coldridge, daughters Cindy Stratman, Lori Stratman (Randy), and Erin Davies (Travis), and grandson Logan Hembling, sister Jean Setters, brother Don Fairweather (Sandy), sisters-in-law Yvonne Coldridge and Lorraine Boerchers (Dorwin), and many members of the extended family and friends. Georgie is remembered for her enjoyment of travel.

**Guy Gerald Lefrancois (1944-2012).**

Guy was born in Hoey, Saskatchewan. His family moved to Bowness in 1956. He was a talented baker for 20 plus years for the Calgary Stampede. Later he worked for the Carriage House Hotel. Guy is survived by his wife Diana of forty-seven years; his son Shawn (Jay), daughter Michelle (Mike); grandchildren Dallas (Lynn), Danika, and Colton; great-grandchildren Grayden and Dawson; sisters Clemence, Doris, Delorie (Bob), and many members of the extended family friends.

**Stan Kosman (1922-2012).**

Stan is survived by his children Marcia, Patrice (Zeke) and Mark (Eva), his granddaughters Marcelle, Adele, Alice and Evelyn, family in Winnipeg and special friends Marjorie McEwan and Donna Katona. Stan was born in Winnipeg and was predeceased by his wife Carmel in 1982. In 1945, Stan moved west to Bowness where he made many life-long friends including Carmel whom he married in 1950. Stan was a member of the Probus Club of Calgary, and owned and operated Kosman Pump Service. Every summer for 30 years, he joined his Bowness friends for a golf reunion. Since 1982, Stan called Penticton his home.

**Douglas Krasman (1928–2012).**

Doug married Heidi (nee Warkentin) in 1957. Doug and Heidi had five children, Sharon (Gary), Dave (Shannon), Sandy, Mike (Elsie), and Sue (Steve), and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a strong supporter of animal welfare. Doug was born in Calgary and grew up in Bowness with his brother Ken helping their dad operate their mink farm. Doug supported the Calgary Flames and Calgary Stampeders. He spent 33 years working for Nova Corporation and was an active member in the Nova Retiree Club. Doug became a board member with the Kerby Centre. He is also survived by his brother Ken (Lois), their family and cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Hjordis Nelly Schau (1914–2012).**

Hjordis is survived by her children Mikkell (Ann), Sys (Tom), Ansa (Bob) and Coco (Toshi); her grandchildren, Tadzio, Zacharie, Torben, Kaja, Jason, Kasel and Kory; and great-grandchildren, Elsa, Annika and Isaac. She was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and settled with her husband Paul (predeceased) by the river in Bowness. She enjoyed wandering in the mountains with friends and travelled the world many times.

**Jean Samson (nee Brown) Sinclair (1922–2012).**

Jean Samson Sinclair, of Vulcan, formerly of Bowness, is survived by her husband Edwin John (Ted), children, daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Jan Rasmussen; sons and daughters-in-law, Ric and Vicky Sinclair, Macleod Sinclair and wife Jadde Erixsan; grandchildren, John-Michael Rasmussen, Christa-

Jean Rasmussen, Derrick Sinclair (Sherry), Amber Logue (Mike), Courtney Sinclair and Alex Sinclair; and great-grandchildren, Anora, Lucas, Zachary and Sadie.

**REMINDER! Please renew your Annual Membership. We count on your support.**

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**MEMBERSHIP and BOOK ORDER FORM – CLIP AND MAIL**  
**BOOK ORDERS - Note: Please check with us to confirm shipping costs.**

I WISH TO PLACE AN ORDER FOR THE SOCIETY'S:

- **FIRST EDITION OF NEW BOOK "BOWNESS: PAST AND PRESENT (1911-2011)" and/or**
  - **THIRD EDITION OF THE FIRST BOOK "BOWNESS: OUR VILLAGE IN THE VALLEY"**
- (MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED – BUT WELCOMED!)

**Order for the New Book, "100 Years of Bowness: Past and Present" – \$60 per book**

No. of Books Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60 per book = \$\_\_\_\_\_. Payment enclosed

**Order for 3rd Edition of Society's first book, "Bowness: Our Village in the Valley" \$60 per book**

No. of Books Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60 per book = \$\_\_\_\_\_. Payment enclosed

**MEMBERSHIP (New or Renewal) – BOWNESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**I WISH TO OBTAIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY FOR 2012 - 2013**

No. of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ each @ \$10.00 per year. Total payment enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No./Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Bowness Historical Society, 8907 – 33 Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3B 1M2.

**Inquiries or Information:** Phone (403) 288-1737 or 288-2055, or check our website at [www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bownesshistoricalsociety.com). Membership includes the quarterly Beacon newsletter.

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**BOOKS READY FOR CHRISTMAS**

**The new book ("Bowness: Past and Present 1911 - 2011") celebrates the Bowness Centennial (1911-2011). The price of the book is \$60.**

The new book has about 650 pages featuring photos of old Bowness, some dating to 1911 and published for the first time. The book covers the changing scenes over the past 100 years highlighting Bowness homes, Soldiers' Settlement, businesses, institutions, transportation, sports, and family histories.

**The third printing of "BOWNESS: OUR VILLAGE IN THE VALLEY", the Society's first book, is also for sale.** Price is \$60 – the 2005 price! This book will be a valued companion to the new book.

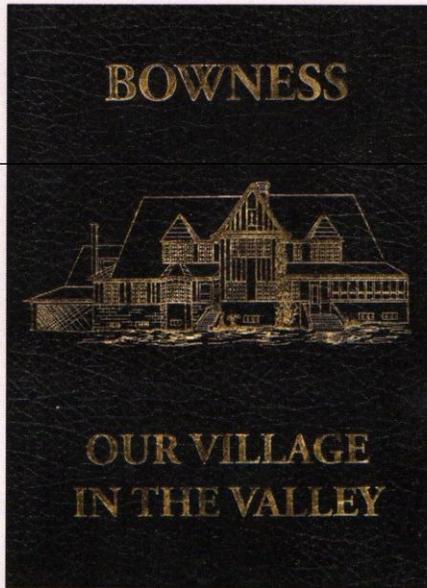
Both books can be purchased by order form at the end of this newsletter (membership is not required), or contact Glen Bell at (403) 282-7200. **Out-of-town shipping costs are extra. Please check ahead.**

**NOW SELLING**



**Bowness Historical Society**

*The Bowness Historical Society is pleased to offer two limited-edition companion volumes on the history of Bowness*



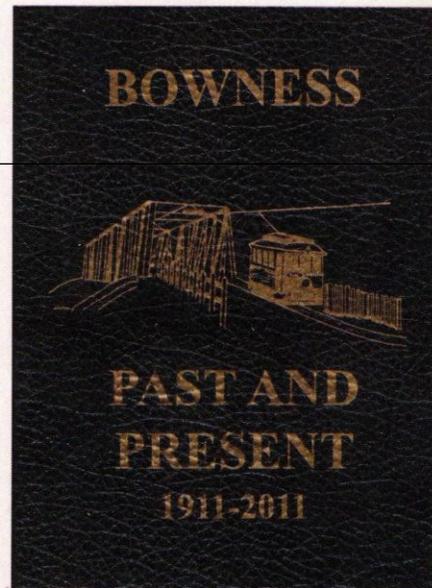
**BOWNESS**

**OUR VILLAGE  
IN THE VALLEY**

**Bowness:  
Our Village in  
the Valley**

Third printing of the Society's first book—585 pages of community history and more!

**\$60**



**BOWNESS**

**PAST AND  
PRESENT  
1911-2011**

**Bowness:  
Past and Present,  
1911-2011**

The Society's latest book—630 pages of photo history—released February 2012

**\$60**

*Please contact*

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