



NEIGHBOURHOODS
BELTLINE
ASSOCIATION

003

BELTTHELANDIAN

The Year of the Outdoor Art Gallery
^{A^ND} Beltlandians Are Coming Together
in a New Way ^{PL^{US}} Reimagining our
Urban Landscape Through Pop-up
Infrastructure ^{THE^N} A New Public Space
Built for a New Normal ^{AL^SO} 2nd Street
Upgrades Go Live ^{PL^{US}} Call to Action
in Support of Flood Mitigation

Plus: Seven new walking spots for the everyday Beltlandian.

Show us your Beltline! (Not that one). Comments and photos about this issue can be sent to us via our social channels.

What's going on at the McHugh House

ALL EVENTS POSTPONED

Welcome home to Luxury Beltline Living.



Park Central cultivates a culture of caring through social functions to help create a sense of belonging

When Lineth Hizon and Thomas Sahrnik moved from Vancouver to Calgary they were looking for the downtown lifestyle.

“When we saw Park Central, we couldn’t believe we could afford a gorgeous new apartment in a building that really engages its residents through fun social events,” says Hizon.

The 30-something couple moved into a one-bedroom corner suite on the 20th floor with sweeping views of the mountains and city – they couldn’t be happier.

The couple can go on and on about the stunning rooftop deck with pool, the SkyLounge, the gym, the events and more.

“I’ve been taking part in some really fun virtual events (due to the pandemic), which is a great way to meet people, while making us feel like we are part of a community,” say Hizon.

Sahrnik puts it like this: “I’m from Austria, and when I tell my family about the incredible amenities, they can’t believe it. I feel like I’m on holidays; like I’m living a New York or Toronto luxury lifestyle.”

Sara Nettleton and Garrad Burlingam understand and couldn’t agree more. The couple visited Park

Central and immediately fell in love.

“Because I work downtown, we wanted to live in the neighbourhood. But we also wanted a modern apartment with lots of windows, high-end finishes, full-size stainless-steel appliances and great views,” says the 30-something Nettleton. “Everyone is so friendly here; the staff bends over backwards to make sure you are happy ... it’s just awesome.”



Although many apartment buildings feature great amenities, Park Central stands above the crowd because “here, it’s about creating a sense of belonging, of community” says Tareq Merali, Park Central’s Customer Experience Manager.

“It’s really important, especially now with COVID-19, that people have a sense of neighbourhood and what that means,” adds Merali. “We host weekly virtual events, like pizza night, beer and wine tastings, Trivia nights and much more.”

Park Central partners with local, independent merchants in town for prizes. They encourage tenants to shop local whenever they can by providing each new tenant with a VIP card – one that offers gift cards and discounts from several local businesses.

However, that is just the beginning of many surprises.

Imagine waking up to spectacular views, beautifully appointed modern apartments, a rooftop lounge and private residence amenities to rival a five-star hotel? It can all be yours at Hines’ Park Central.



Rising 32-storeys above Central Memorial Park, each of the 462 impeccably designed residences, from studios, one, two and three-bedroom suites, are awash with natural light thanks to expansive windows that give way to private patios.

As soon as you enter through a dramatic lobby with concierge services, including lockers for deliveries and 24-hour security, you know you are in for timeless elegance throughout.

Tenants have access to exclusive resort-style amenities on the 8th floor, complete with a state-of-the-art fitness centre, yoga studio, barre, an interactive games room with pool/shuffleboard/arcade games/golf simulator, and a co-working hub.

Designed to become the hub for neighbours, family and friends to get together, the outdoor terrace with pool and dining facilities is only rivalled by the rooftop SkyLounge, where residents can enjoy the private bar and dining room while gazing at the stunning views of Calgary from high above the ground.



Making the Connection

In this issue of the Beltlandian, we're celebrating all the ways we've been able to come together as a community while still staying 6ft apart (or is it 10ft now? I can't keep track anymore).

On one hand, there's nothing wrong with embracing the tough year for what it's been - one big flaming dumpster fire. We've collectively faced an economic crash, a global pandemic and a year's worth of cancelled plans and disappointment. You're mad about it? We feel you. Feel those feels.

On the other hand, some of us need to find a silver lining in this mess of a world, and community camaraderie would certainly put a glimmer in most of our eyes. Frequent breaks from our new home offices are often met with friendly greetings while strolling through the neighbourhood. A cheerful 'hello' from a stranger goes a long way when facing so much isolation. And I don't think anyone could deny the sheer joy of greeting a fluffy pup at nearly every corner of the Beltline. Did you know the puppy population in the Beltline has gone up 1300% since the beginning of the pandemic? Nah, I'm just kidding, I totally made that number up. But the dog adoption rate has surely risen as people spend more time at home, and I'd bet the happiness of every new dog parent has risen at least 1300% with the addition of a new furry friend in their life.

But enough about dogs. You came here to read about life in the Beltline as a living, breathing human! We're thrilled to bring you a plethora of reading material to keep you connected to your neighbourhood, even if you're experiencing it through a hefty layer of PPE and hand sanitizer. If you're able to take a walk through the Beltline, why not check out some favourite destinations of your fellow Beltlandians as outlined on page 2? And while you're at it, read about BUMP Festival and how we were able to bring 20 new public murals to the Beltline this year. We've also got updates on the 2nd Street safety upgrades, the Phase 1 opening of High Park, pop-up infrastructure, plus information on flood mitigation efforts to protect the Beltline and how you can help!

The Beltline has always been a neighbourhood built on resiliency and connection, and this past year has been a heavy-handed reminder of that. So while you're enjoying this third edition of the Beltlandian, give yourself a pat on the back for getting through all you've been up against, and maybe give a dog a pat on the head, too.



Kaely Cormack
Managing Editor,
Beltline
Neighbourhoods
Association

ALSO

Peter Oliver
President
Keith Friedlander
Director of
Communications

Julia Schreiber
Co-Executive
Director, BUMP
Kevin Schlauch
Director of
Transportation

2020 – The Year of the Outdoor Art Gallery

If we have learned anything this year, it is that outdoor public spaces are the safest and most reliable way to connect as a community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This past August, BUMP stamped the Beltline with 20 new public murals, bringing the total number of freely accessible BUMP works to a whopping 50. With the pandemic still in full swing, these installations have become a bridge between isolated and integrated within the city by democratizing the visual arts in public spaces for all to observe and enjoy.

If you took the time to wander the Beltline in August you may have had a chance to observe artists creating these murals, or our staff furiously biking between painting sites with snacks and other supports on the way. While the excitement and energy of summer may have relaxed into the slower pace that cool weather brings, the murals continue to radiate that same energy and take on new life in the cold, grey corners of Calgary.

Next time you feel a calling for takeout or a coffee from outside your own kitchen, maybe take the scenic route through the alleys, nooks and crannies of the Beltline to experience a new light on previously familiar territory. Once you are safely back on your couch, learn the artists' stories through our website, our YouTube artist talks, online podcasts and BUMP's new printed mural guide available at the McHugh House and local shops throughout the Beltline.

Calgary's visual landscape has been enriched and enhanced by all of our incredible artists and hosts over the last four years. We hope that by adding vibrancy through new public art in the city, we can continue to feel a spirit of togetherness while still apart.

→ **Julia Schreiber**

Stay in touch

Like what you see? Feedback? Ideas?
Let's talk! beltlandian@beltlineyyc.ca

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Look up! Beltlandians Are Coming Together in a New Way



2020 encouraged my partner and I to walk; and we walked a lot.

It got us out of our apartment, and we welcomed the new routine. Some days, we'd take familiar turns and talk about our favourite streets. Other days, we'd walk the lanes and choose a direction that felt brand new.

Like so many Beltlandians, we used the longer days of spring and summer to our advantage.

We walked the Beltline neighbourhoods and we often felt a sense of community with those we passed on the street and in the parks – the community was together, but apart.

We continued to walk into the fall, and now the winter. It's decidedly the same routine, but now, we're walking in the dark.

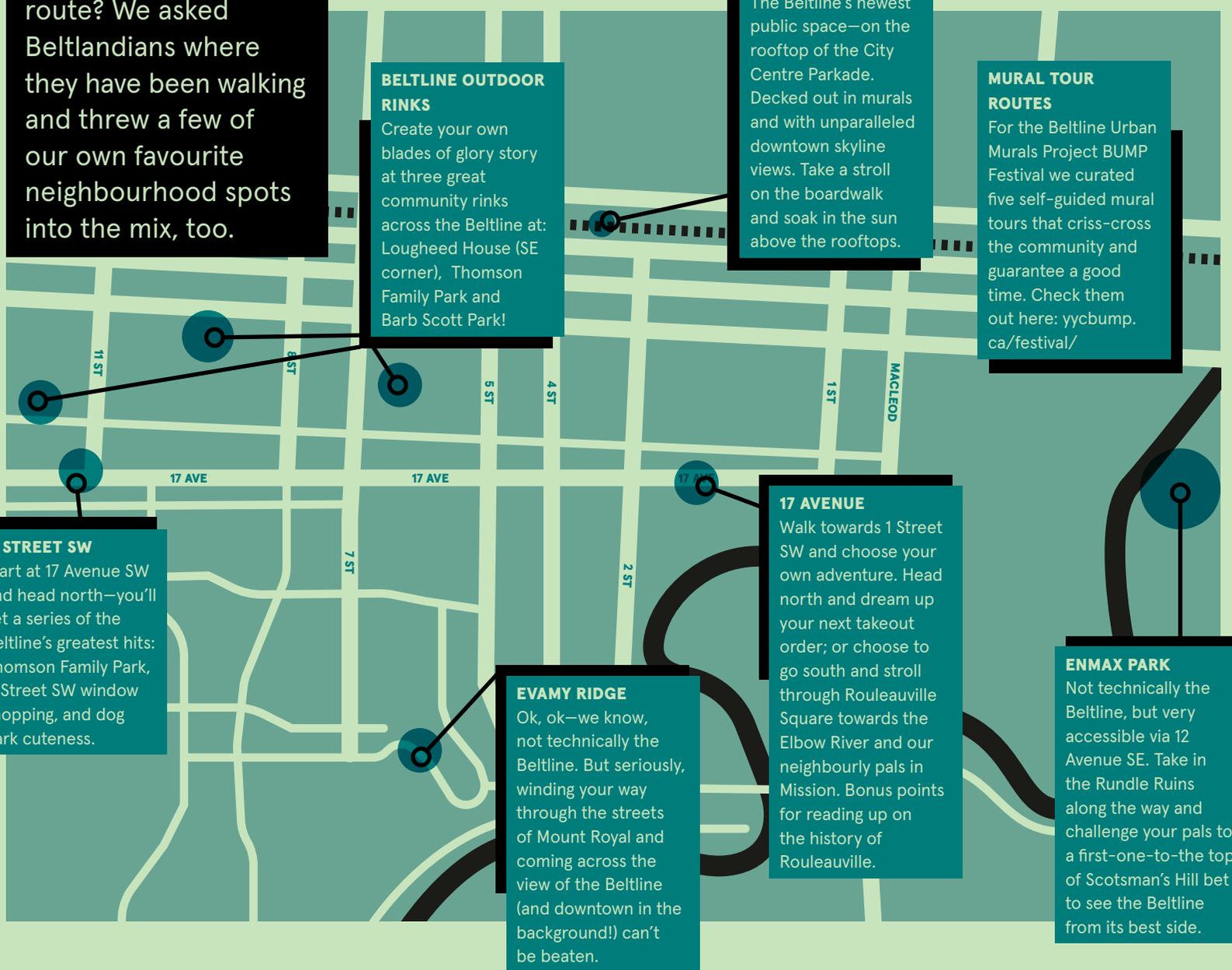
There is something cozy about dark, winter walking. We think it has something to do with the promise of something warm once you get back home and the neighbourly glow of windows framing the length of the street. On our most

recent second wave walks, we've noticed that the Beltline is glowing extra bright. In what appears to be whole towers with their lights on, and entire blocks illuminated, our community continues to come together, even though we're apart.

Next time you're out for a walk in the community, look up. It's a rare moment in time and it won't last forever. We're all at home, and I promise, it's heartening to see.

Why not embrace 2021 with a Beltline walk?
→ **Jennifer Comrie**

Need a new walking route? We asked Beltlandians where they have been walking and threw a few of our own favourite neighbourhood spots into the mix, too.



Reimagining Our Urban Landscape Through Pop-up Infrastructure



A New Public Space Built for a New Normal

This past summer, we saw residents of the Beltline and Calgarians at-large more engaged than ever in conversations around public space in their city.

Perhaps more people began noticing the day-to-day importance of the public realm when it changed suddenly to adapt to the conditions of a global pandemic. Arrows directing you through the Bow River waterfront, two-meter buffers in public parks and bright orange barriers making way for patios to grow out onto the 17th Avenue sidewalk have forced us all to take a good hard look at the built environment and adjust to a new norm for being out in public. If all these changes make one thing clear to us, it is that we need more spaces for public life in our city.

Amid these shifting perspectives of our parks and streets, the BNA launched High Park – a new experimental space located on top of the City Centre Parkade managed by the Calgary Parking Authority (CPA). High Park was an idea born out of discussions held at the BNA's Urban Development Committee addressing the lack of open spaces both for people to gather and for communities to set up events in their own neighbourhood. The Black Owned Market, Calgary's pop-up event this summer (Instagram: [@bomyyyc](#)), which saw great support and attendance from local Calgarians, is an outstanding example of what communities can look like when we give them the physical room to grow. Seeing this need for more space, we quickly began working with our partners at the CPA to implement a multi-phase, three-year project that could adapt and respond to the needs of its community in the future.

With 90,000 ft² on an open rooftop, the possibilities for social and cultural events at High Park are near-endless. But we still have two more years to plan for and we need the help of our community to make that happen. That's why the BNA has launched Friends of High Park to help steward this exciting new space and determine its success in the future. You can reach out to us directly at highpark@beltlineyyc.ca to get involved and visit highparkyyc.org to share your ideas for the space.

We look forward to hearing what you have to say!

→ **Jean-Gabriel Chiasson**



By now we're all used to seeing patios on sidewalks, and new pedestrian-friendly spaces bordered with traffic cones opening up. The city has been working with communities to give people more spaces as businesses opened up in our new reality. Arranged by the Calgary Planning Services Centre, the areas of focus include 17th and Stephen Avenues, but have slowly grown and expanded throughout our neighbourhood.

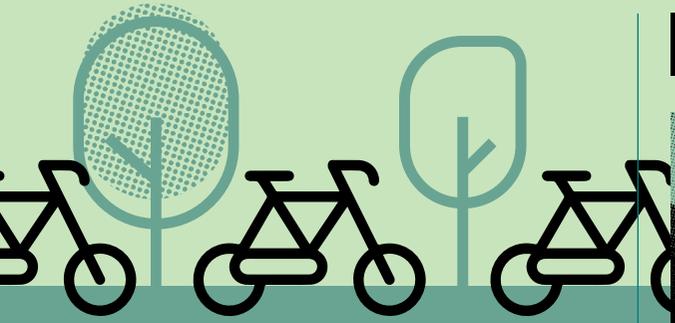
Why are temporary bike lanes and patios so great? They are cheap, fast, and impactful tools to make our experience of the public realm better. The ability to create pop-up infrastructure in places where it could appear more frequently or in a permanent way is an amazing experiment for our neighbourhood. We're familiar with Montreal's terraces, and pop-up bike lanes in cities around the world have become permanent as a result of the pandemic's shifting of the way people commute. In our case it's been in response to social distancing efforts and the recognition by the city that people need more room. This is a form of tactical urbanism that we should take and run with!

Short term actions can lead to long term change, as we've seen with our downtown cycle track. Are you interested in more useful space in popular areas like 17th avenue? What if patios, parks, and transit areas could be bigger and more useful on a regular basis? What if, hear me out, after this is all over, we kept these? We should consider how this technique can be useful for more than just physical distancing.

After all, it's hard to imagine how the streets will feel after these temporary havens are gone. If simple traffic cones can lead to a totally changed streetscape, what other simple tools can we add to the kit that make our experience more fun? We have to consider who it is in the interest of to continue this practice, but the temporary nature of this project means that roadways can still be handed back to drivers when it makes sense.

Our streets are a stage for public life, as many of us in the Beltline and other urban neighbourhoods have conceded proper backyards for the benefit of urban living. This includes accepting more noise and less space, but affords us sociability in vibrant spaces, parks, patios, and the opportunity to get to know our fellow citizens. This is like the urban version of building yourself a new patio or gazebo every weekend! It's a way to redistribute the use of space in a way that doesn't favour cars. The opportunity with pop-up infrastructure is to set it up the way we want, and proudly show visitors to our neighbourhood what the future could look like.

→ **Ben Dunlop**



The New Benchmark for Neighbourhood Streets: 2nd Street Upgrades Go Live

Do you remember what 2nd Street SW used to look like?

From 10th Ave to 26th Ave SW there were overly wide vehicle lanes that encouraged speeding, death-defying crosswalks, and those cutsie painted markers on the asphalt featuring a bike and an arrow. 2nd Street SW was an active-modes connection in name only.

Back in 2017, it was also a beat-up street. Cracks in the asphalt made the road even more dangerous for people riding cars and bikes alike, so 2nd Street was scheduled for a repave. This is when the Beltline Neighbourhoods Association (BNA) and other engaged neighbours lept into action and advocated for numerous safety improvements.

If you're going to repave a popular mobility corridor, why not take a few extra steps to greatly improve safety for everyone: drivers, cyclists, scooters, skaters, pedestrians, and more?

In June of 2018, the City of Calgary took to the streets to collect the first round of feedback on a 2nd Street SW Complete Street Project. It was our first look at a reimagined 2nd Street that would feature safety improvements like a separated cycle track and concrete bulb-outs for pedestrian crosswalks. After feedback, meetings, and more analysis, a final design was proposed in October of 2019.

Safety enhancements on 2nd Street SW required thoughtful design and engineering outside of the City of Calgary's existing precedents – and thanks to community members and organizations who care about their neighbourhood, these design improvements were achieved.

Construction was scheduled for summer of 2020, and by October of that year the work was complete. Safer crosswalks? Check! A separated track from the Elbow River pathway to the 12th Ave mobility track? Check! 2-way traffic flow and parking for vehicles? Check!

2nd Street SW is now safer to drive, safer to ride a bike, safer to roll with a scooter, and safer to walk across. Thank you to the City of Calgary and to all of our passionate neighbours who made these upgrades possible. 2nd Street SW is now the new benchmark for great neighbourhood streets in Calgary.

→ Kevin Schlauch



IMAGE: SUZ C. VIA FLICKR

Call to Action in Support of Calgary Flood Mitigation

Local advocacy groups in support of flood mitigation are calling on all Beltlandians to share their flood experience in a short 2-minute survey

Mention “the summer of 2013”, and most Calgarians will think immediately of the flood and its aftermath. Its impact was major – 5 people died in southern Alberta (including one in the Mission district), and 100,000 Calgarians were temporarily displaced. Thousands of homes were lost or severely damaged, and many residents (and thousands of volunteers) spent the entire summer on endless cleaning up and repair projects.

Seven years on, we are still almost as vulnerable to another flood. Recent construction of the Glenmore reservoir reduces our risk to a smaller “2005-type” flood but does not protect us from the impacts we witnessed in 2013. What’s more? The 2013 flood was not the worst flood possible. Flood events of greater magnitude are known to have occurred here historically.

But progress is being made: the city continues to work hard to improve its protection (think of the new flood walls in the Eau Claire area, and the increased capacity at the Glenmore reservoir), and the province is proposing to construct a dry dam in the Springbank area near Highways 8 and 22X. A public hearing to review the proposed Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1) is planned for March 2021. Under the control of Alberta’s Natural Resources Control Board, the hearing seeks to determine whether the project is in the public interest. A second

review is underway concurrently at the federal level by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Various citizens’ groups have been formed to advocate for flood mitigation and control, none being more effective and vocal than the Calgary River Communities Action Group (CRCAG) (which represents residents who were flooded), and its partner Flood-Free Calgary (FFC) (which represents commercial and business entities who are fighting to prevent another flood). CRCAG and FFC have secured intervenor status to present their position in favor of SR1 at the NRCB hearing; and they hope Calgary’s citizens will express their support for the project.

The BNA Board of Directors is calling for Beltline residents to take this request seriously. Please complete their short 2-minute survey to show your support and help protect our city. beltlineyc.ca/flood_action

We need protection, and we need it now!!

Disclaimer: All surveys will be filed with the NRCB as part of the written submission of CRCAG and FFC. It will also be publicly available on the NRCB website. Do not provide information that you do not want to be made public.

Alternatively, or additionally, please contact Geoff Granville, Director of Flood Mitigation, BNA Board (flood@beltlineyc.ca)

→ **Geoff Granville**





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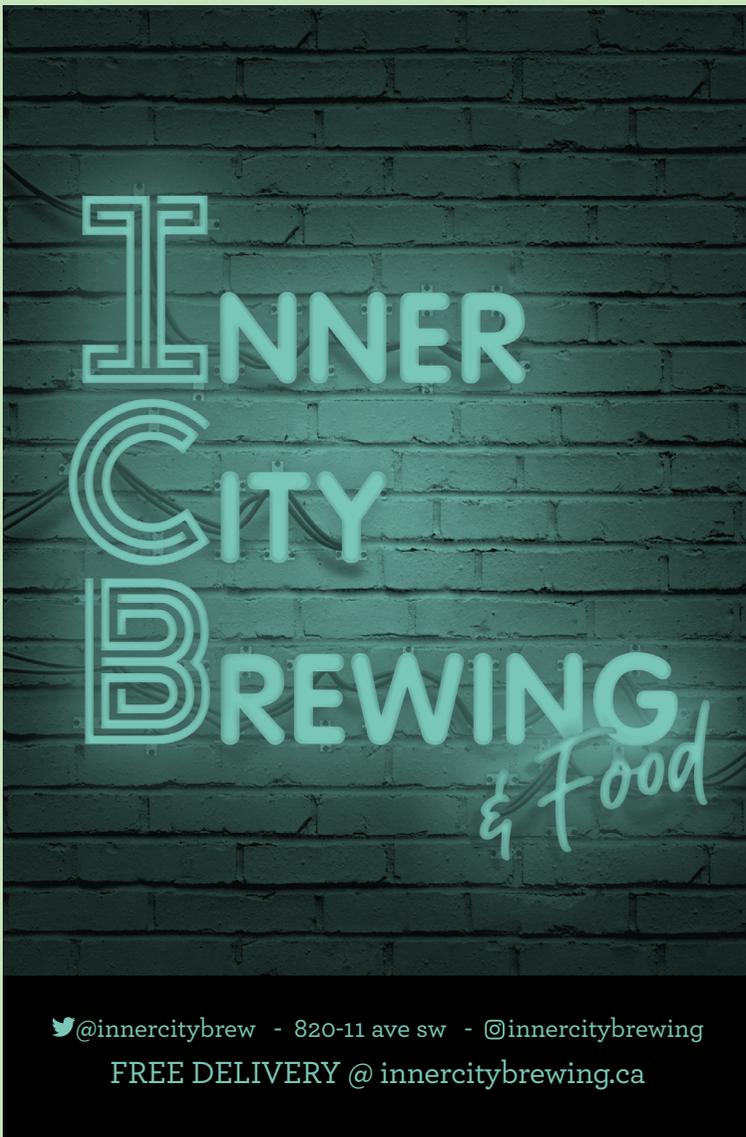


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