

Calgary
Bridge Centre



Founders, Donors
and Volunteers
Jun 01, 2024

Good Afternoon!

Welcome to the Calgary Bridge Centre! Thank You for coming. This day is well overdue as we are honoring everyone who has made this Bridge Centre happen. This includes our Founders, Donors, Volunteers and supporters.

The Calgary Community Bridge League was incorporated with the province in 2010. This was as a result of Group of Bridge players who had a vision that we could have a permanent Bridge Centre in Calgary. Where different clubs could operate. Where lessons could be held. Where special Bridge events could take place. Where tables did not have to be set up and taken down. The Calgary Community Bridge League (CCBL) was established, a Board of Directors was installed and By-laws were set up. Members and lawyer spouses helped to draft the By-laws.

Then the Fund raising began. This was initially centered around education. Barbara Seagram as well as, Audrey Grant and Mike Lawrence were brought in to do seminars and workshops. Over a period of a few years, these 4 seminars brought in excess of \$50,000. Also, a sizable sum of over \$100,000 was received from the Calgary Parks Foundation.

Around this time the Calgary Parks Foundation was set up, so that anyone making a donation would receive a tax receipt. That is still happening to this day.

Along the way 2 Casinos were held by our members and these accumulated in excess of \$100,000. Those were the big events, that helped to raise money.

On Wednesdays a Swiss game was started at the Parkdale Nifty fiftys club, then later at the HMCS Tecumseh pairs game, and a Hays Farm Elbow Drive game, then to the Kirby Centre. All of the profits from these games went to the CCBL.

Finally, we have received many individual donations from various members, who have been very generous with their pocketbooks.

With all of these efforts an approximate sum of \$450,000 had been accumulated.

The CCBL has leased the old Ramsay Community Hall from the City of Calgary for 5

years, with options of two more 5 year leases. We have spent \$225,000 on improvements to convert this building into a usable Bridge Centre. This includes our 4 TV Screens, LED lighting Acoustics and flooring. Also, we have started to do LED lighting downstairs. We are responsible for all Capital Costs associated with this building and Property as well as all Operational Costs.

We started operations here in Feb/2022 and have been continuing to grow since then. However, it was not an easy process to get here.

Currently, the five clubs are doing in excess of 300 tables a month. That is 10 tables a day on average.

Our Revenue from Bridge is not sufficient to pay the operational costs on a monthly basis. To help us in regards to this we have non-Bridge renters some on a regular basis and others on a sporadic one.

Currently there are more and more bridge players coming out face to face at the Bridge Centre every day.

In the first Corporate year end we lost approx. \$23,500. After Covid it was extremely difficult to get people to come out. By our second corporate year end, which is the end of this month, we will be close to breaking even, thanks to the increase in bridge support and non Bridge revenue.

I would like to thank our current Board member's and more importantly I would like to thank all our previous board members and everyone who stepped up and contributed to making the Bridge Centre a reality today.

**Our gratitude goes out to the original Group of Founders:
Lamya Abougoush, Jim Berglund, Walter Brock, Marlene Fuller,
Marlene Lenstra, and Elaine Stewart.**

I would like to thank Diane Campbell and Sandy Robinson for putting on this event tonight.

Thanks again for all your generosity!!

Let's Play Bridge.

Jim Murphy
President
Jun 01, 2024