



The Reader Rock Garden

www.ReaderRock.com

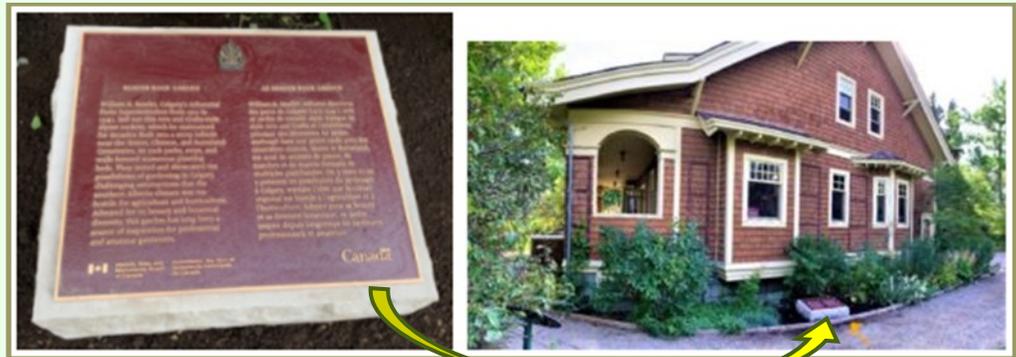


President's Message

By Lindsey Boida

Despite the strange and challenging times throughout 2020, there are three exciting reasons to celebrate last year at Reader Rock Garden ...

1. The official plaque to commemorate the garden as a **National Historic Site** was installed last Fall. It is located on the west side of the Café. Come check it out when the snow melts.



2. The City submitted an application for the **International Urban Parks Award** and Reader Rock Garden received an honorable recognition for historic elements. We are all very proud of this international acknowledgement and it truly shows that everyone's efforts (the City, FoRRGS, volunteers, patrons, etc.) contribute to this history and beauty of this special garden.



3. And, about that **stolen 1944 historical plaque** ... a new one has been re-installed in its place. *See photo on the next page.* We sincerely hope that this **replacement** receives the utmost respect it deserves, as intended 76 years ago.

Looks like 2021 may also continue to have Covid restrictions, but we're optimistic that we'll find safe and creative ways to stay connected with you, our supporters. Rest assured that the Garden remains open to visitors, albeit with physical distancing considerations in-place. Stay tuned for updates as we know more. *Looking forward to Spring!* The sun rises earlier every day, a positive sign indeed.



FoRRGS Team

President - Lindsey Boida
 Vice-President - Vacant
 Secretary - Lillian Kasa
 Treasurer - Liz Lunney
 Membership - Karen Hogan
 Social Media - Julie Ma
 Directors - Bruce Dunlop, Leah Gayle, Sue Gryzenhout,
 Lindsay Orr, Fabian Patino, John Percic
 Past President - Diane Dalkin

| Inside this Issue | |
|--|-------|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Spring Into Action? | 2 |
| Time to Refresh & Renew-Thru the Years | 3,4,5 |
| Announcements & Gratitude | 6 |

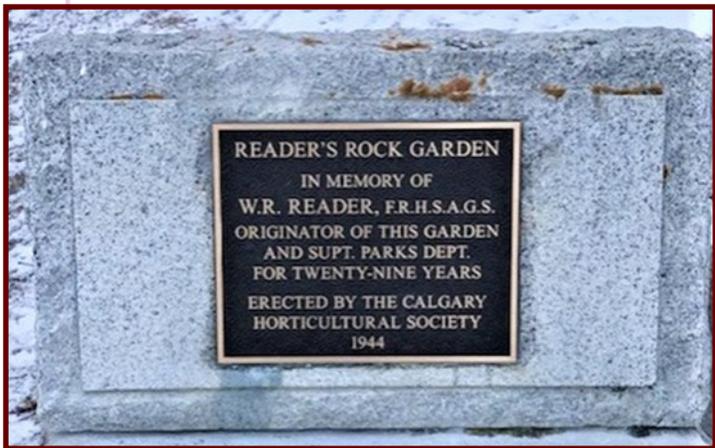
NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF READER ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY

Reader Rock Ramblings



Con't from previous page ...

Here's the *new replacement plaque* for the one that was stolen last year ... It's back at the Garden where it rightfully should be.



Thank-you to the *City of Calgary Parks* for getting this fixed in a timely manner!



For the Garden of Daily Living:

Plant three rows of Peas:

Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of Squash:

Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of Lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind, Lettuce be patient, Lettuce really love.

Plant three rows of Turnips:

Turnips for meetings, Turnips for service, Turnips to help one another.

To complete our garden we must have Thyme:

Thyme for each other Thyme, Thyme for family, Thyme for friends, Thyme for yourself.

Water freely with patience & cultivate with care!

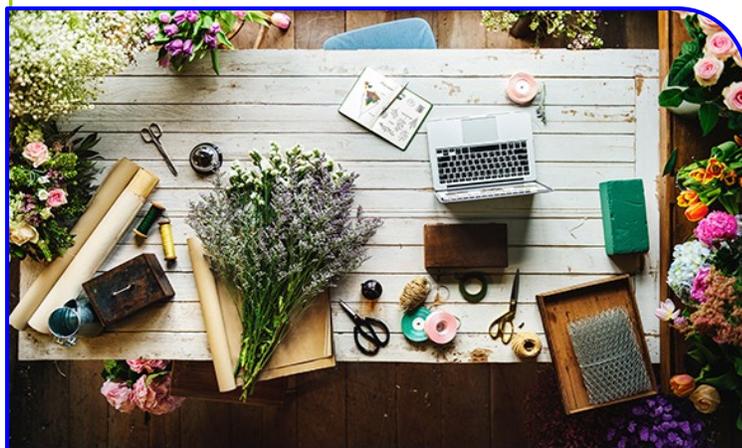


Spring Into Action? - Maybe Not?

By Diane Dalkin

Nature forges on despite pandemic restrictions. As the weather warms, the Garden will awake from its slumber and need attention; fortunately, Head Gardener Daniel & his team will meet this challenge as safely as possible. We encourage you to continue to visit the Garden, but please be respectful of the social distancing guidance with others.

We wish we could offer more definitive plans for this year's schedule, but like everyone else, we must remain patient and flexible to see how things go with public health concerns. Please check-in on us via our website, follow us on social media or stay tuned for more detailed emails.



So, at this time, our usual list of events/dates – are simply *possibilities for 2021*, upcoming events which we may *or* may not participate in, virtual *or* in-person, *pending Covid easing/restrictions, of course*. Either way, we'd still like you to be aware of the *tentative timing* as follows*.

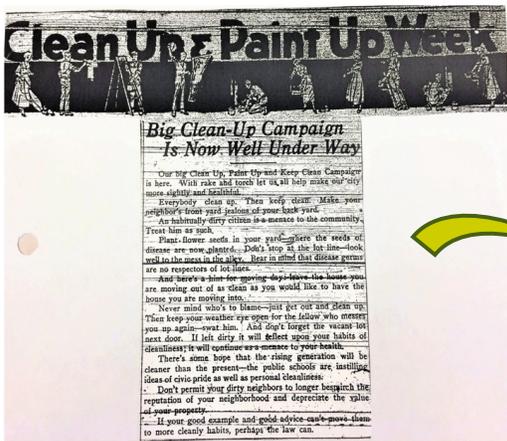
- ◆ **Seedy Saturday** – March 20 Virtual Session, see: www.calgaryseedysaturday.ca **
- ◆ **Calgary Horticultural Society's Garden Show** – Virtual Sessions – April 24 & 25, *pending more details*
- ◆ **Reader's Garden Café** re-opening – April 30
- ◆ Calgary Foundation **Jane's Walk** – May 7, 8 & 9**
- ◆ FoRRGS **AGM** – Virtual /In-person? – May 2
- ◆ FoRRGS **Plant Sale & Stroll** – June 12
- ◆ Historic Calgary Week – July 23 –August 3**
- ◆ Volunteer Appreciation – September 18

**Please check our website or follow us on social media for updates. ** We're not participating at this time.*

Time to Refresh & Renew ... Thru the Years

By Diane Dalkin

Spring is welcomed for new beginnings and getting ready for the growing season. Excitement fills the air with nature blossoming and our communities alike. Everyone seems to be emerging from a long winter of hibernation, especially this year with Covid-19 still looming. As I perused local archival newspapers to get a pulse on how early Calgarians addressed this season, I wanted to share some of what I found from “back in the day”. However, remember that judging through our current lenses the historical standards of the day may be unfair. With this context established, here’s a **1920 Calgary Daily Herald** article by William Reader advocating their annual Spring campaign:



“Our Big Clean-Up, Paint Up & Keep Clean Campaign is here. With rake and torch let us all help make our city more sightly and healthful.

Everybody clean up. Then keep clean. Make your neighbor’s front yard jealous of your back yard. An habitually dirty citizen is a menace to the community. Treat him as such.

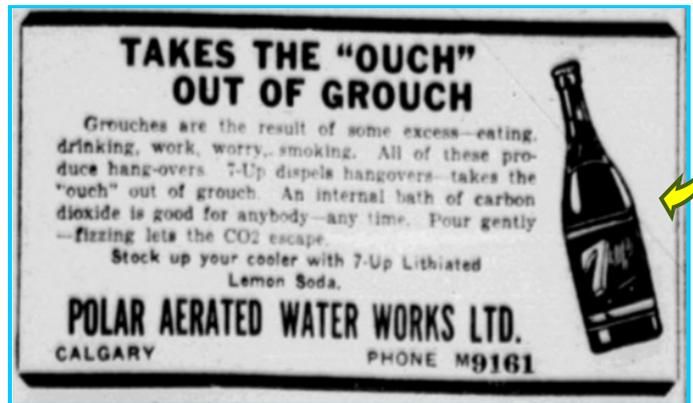
Plant flower seeds where the seeds of disease are now planted. Don’t stop at the lot line, look well to the mess in the alley. Bear in mind that disease germs are no respectors of lot lines.

Never mind who’s to blame – just get out and clean up. ... public schools are also instilling ideas of civic pride as well as personal cleanliness.

Don’t permit your dirty neighbors to longer besmirch the reputation of your neighborhood and depreciate the value of your property.

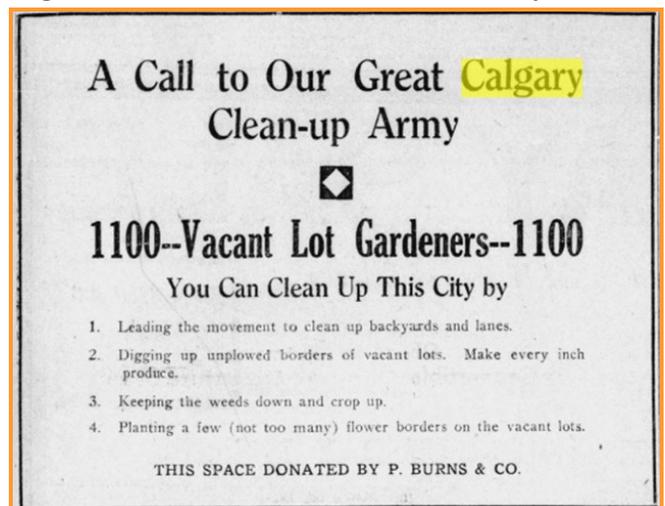
If your good example & good advice can’t move them to more cleanly habits, perhaps the law can.” 🤖

And after *THAT colorful advice* from 1920, ... no wonder one should seek to calm one’s self with “*Take the Ouch Out of Grouch – An internal bath of carbon dioxide is good for anybody – any time – Stock your cooler with 7-Up Lithiated Lemon Soda*”. Cheers to that!



The focus on **Spring cleaning** also extended to **vacant lots**, as seen in this advertisement extracted again from the **Calgary Daily Herald**. The **Vacant Lots Garden Club** was inaugurated in Calgary in 1911 and formally organized in 1914. The club encouraged residents to garden on empty civic properties for the purposes of beautification and food supply. This was a vital resource especially during scarcities and challenging times.

Annie Gale (Calgary’s first female alderman in 1918), **Alexander Calhoun** (Calgary’s first librarian) and **William Reader** were the early champions of this very successful program. Of the ~3230 vacant lots that once were part of this initiative (~1914-1960s), only the Bridgeland /Riverside Vacant Lots currently survive.



Another discovery from 1913, with definitely more of a timeless objective – is something that is currently promoted during Covid-19 restricted times i.e. *Buy Local ... “Calgary Made Goods ... That all Loyal Calgarian Should Buy – Buy Them and Watch Calgary Grow”!*



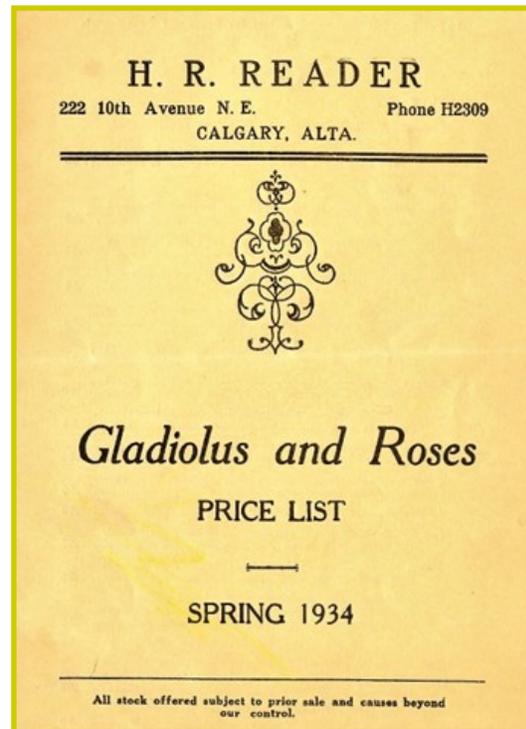
A poignant reminder even now during our recent & local economic challenges.



Besides “Clean-Up”, hopeful Springtime encourages dreaming and scheming about the gardening plans for the upcoming season. Gorgeous photos and vivid descriptions in seed catalogues tempt us to purchase tiny bundles of future promise for our own gardens. It’s definitely difficult to resist such beauties!

No Doubt, we’d all surely consider purchasing plants from the bargoons listed in the following – *Wow, \$0.06-\$0.35 per plant, even cheaper by the dozen!* This 1934 old pamphlet lends historical perspective to how gardening expenses have changed with time. You probably also noticed that this advertising came from *Mr. Reader’s son, Harry Roland Reader’s* business. Prior to becoming City Superintendent of Parks, Cemeteries & Recreation (1913-42), Mr. Reader had a landscaping / gardening business. Clearly Harry Reader followed in his father’s footsteps, taking on the family horticulture business.

Just a fun fact and an interesting comparison for our current day plant purchases.



| GLADIOLUS | | Dozen (6 at Doz. each. rate.) |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Affame—Bright begonia rose, very large | .05 | .50 |
| Albatross—Very pure white without markings, large blooms and spikes | .12 | \$1.20 |
| Anna Eborius—Dark velvety purple, very good..... | .05 | .45 |
| Apricot Glow—Soft clear apricot..... | .05 | .45 |
| Berty Snow—A lovely shade of soft lilac, blooms large and well placed | .06 | .60 |
| Break o' Day—Salmon pink with creamy throat, robust and pleasing | .05 | .45 |
| Commander Koehl—Dark clear red, straight spikes and large blooms | .10 | \$1.00 |
| Coryphee—Clear light pink, large spike | .10 | \$1.00 |
| Dr. F. E. Bennett—Flame red, one of the best in this color | .05 | .45 |
| Dr. Nelson Shook—Deep Rose | .06 | .60 |
| Giant Nymph—Pure pink, perfect form, large blooms | .05 | .45 |
| Gold Eagle—Deep yellow, early and vigorous..... | .05 | .45 |
| Golden Dream—Tall deep yellow | .05 | .45 |
| Heavenly Blue—Lovely light violet mauve..... | .06 | .60 |
| Joe Coleman—Rose red, large blooms | .05 | .45 |
| Libelle—Heliotrope blue, extra fine..... | .50 | \$5.00 |
| Majestic—Bright scarlet, very fine..... | .05 | .45 |
| Mammoth White—Pure White of tremendous size.... | .12 | \$1.20 |
| Marie Kunderd—Very early, ruffled white..... | .05 | .45 |
| Marmora—Lavender grey with petunia colored blotch | .08 | .75 |
| Moorish King—Very rich velvety maroon, large spikes and blooms | .40 | \$4.00 |
| Mother Machree—Greyish lavender tinged golden salmon | .10 | \$1.00 |
| Mrs. J. B. Steves—Exquisite pink and cream..... | .05 | .45 |
| Mrs. Leon Douglas—Begonia rose striped flame, immense spikes | .05 | .45 |
| Mrs. Van Konyenberg—Soft lavender violet | .06 | .60 |
| Pfitzer's Triumph—Bright orange scarlet, very large blooms | .06 | .60 |
| Picardy—Soft clear pink, large blooms, perfect shape, a prizewinner everywhere..... | .35 | \$3.50 |
| Prince of Wales—Clear bright salmon early..... | .05 | .45 |
| Smoky—Fine coppery bronze | .05 | .45 |
| Gladiolus Mixture—Containing large assortment of colors | .50 for \$1.50; 100 for \$2.75 | |

Hope you enjoyed my brief foray into Spring preparedness from the historic *Calgary Daily Herald*. BTW, Mr. Reader was also a regular contributor and writer for this newspaper.

If you are interested in delving further into local history, the *Calgary Public Library* has numerous online archival and searchable newspapers; as well as *The Alberta Library*. Perfect online reading from the safety and comfort of your home:

See go.proquest.com/AlbertaHistoricalNewspapers/

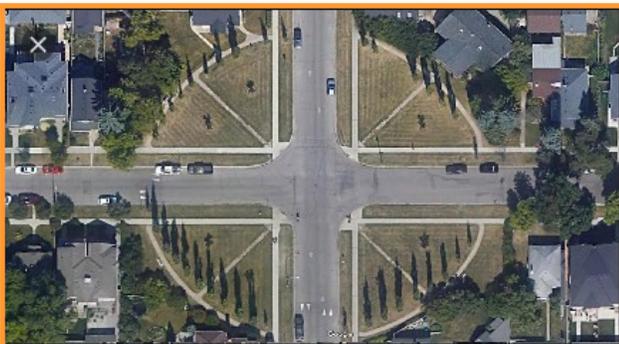
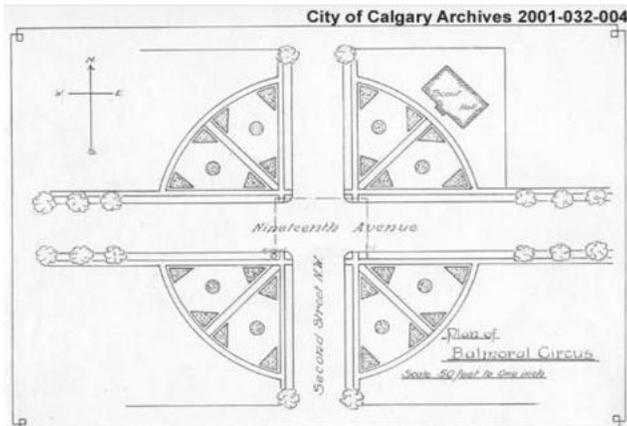


Did You Know? ...

Mr. Reader's official Superintendent position at the City (1913-42) garnered long-term & wide influence on many aspects of local development plans. Public spaces were definitely among these too.

One such greenspace, **Balmoral Circus**, intersection of 19th Ave & 2 Street NW was recently highlighted by **Heritage Calgary** on their Feb 18th posting.

In the 1930s, Reader & his team planted thousands of annuals here in the manicured flower beds to demonstrate Calgary's civic pride of harmony and social order.



Source: Google Maps

Currently, this unusual quiet suburban circle is now being reconsidered for its purpose and scope under the city traffic calming project. It's highly unlikely that it will return to the extent of its former glory days, circa Reader's time, which included extensive ornate and decorative plantings. However, with today's priorities of safety and liveable communities being paramount, the Balmoral Circus will be re-envisioned once again to serve the community in a new fashion. This month, the City is accepting engagement feedback for this cultural landscape. If you'd like more info about this project, see a good synopsis at :

<https://www.heritagecalgary.ca/heritage-calgary-blog/balmoralcircus>

This is an informative and very interesting account of Reader's work, the City Beautiful Movement & Calgary's Everyday Heritage. *Have a look!*



More Online Treasures to Discover ...

The world of rock gardeners extends far beyond our own city limits ... the *International Rock Gardener Magazine* offers a compelling glimpse into mountain flora and wild places. Their free monthly e-publication is brimming with wonderful plant profiles and interesting gardening characters from around the world. Since Calgary's climate is a tad short on the actual growing season, visiting other places online is a welcomed distraction and brings some normalcy back into our current restricted travelling mode.

Paste the following link into your browser for this month's worthwhile treat:

<https://www.srgc.org.uk/logs/logdir/2021Feb251614279736IRG134.pdf>





Welcome Spring!

Stay Well!



37 Silver Springs Dr. NW
www.bgss.ca

"So very beautiful..."

Reader's Rock Garden
Historic Site

Lunch • Dinner
Weekend Brunch • Special Events

Reader's
GARDEN CAFE
Kitchen Garden Cuisine

Macleod Trail & 25th Avenue SE
403-263-0210



Spring



ESCAPE FROM THE BUSY CITY
RETREAT TO CALGARY'S
HIDDEN GEM

LOCATED IN THE BEAUTIFULLY
RESTORED EDWARDS ROCK GARDEN
HISTORIC SITE • CORNER OF
25th AVENUE & MACLEOD TRAIL S.

Coffee & Tea Specialties
Pastries, Sweets & Sundaes
Lunch Specials
Brunch

Open from Mid April to mid October
.....
Wednesday to Sunday
9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Reader's
GARDEN CAFE

The **Calgary Rock and Alpine
Garden Society (CRAGS)**

See their website for up-to-date
Zoom happenings

www.crag.ca/events

Lakeview Community
Association Hall
6110 - 34 Street SW

Re-Opening April 30, 2021 for the Season.

Call 403-234-0065 or see the website: www.readersgardencafe.ca