

Neighbourly spirit at the core of urban living

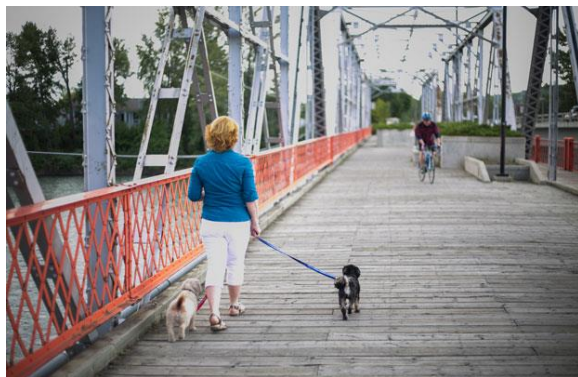
CALGARY HERALD 10.03.2013 |



Patti Dolan walks her two dogs across the Shouldice Bridge in Bowness. *MICHELLE HOFER / FOR INNER-CITY LIVING*

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Words: Jacqueline Louie // **Images:** Michelle Hofer



Patti Dolan walks her two dogs across the Shouldice Bridge in Bowness. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



Patti Dolan inside her Bowness home. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



Patti Dolan walks her two pooches in Bowness. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



Patti Dolan looks at the Bow River from the bridge in Bowness. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



Residents show their pride in community, country and resilience after the June flood damaged many homes and streets in Bowness. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



Patti Dolan's home along the Bow River. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living



The Shouldice Bridge in Bowness. At the time of the June 20 flood, the raging Bow River nearly touched the bottom of the bridge's surface. Michelle Hofer / For Inner-city Living

Bowness resident Patti Dolan adores living in the inner city.

But it's been a tough go after her basement filled up with water in the devastating floods that hit Calgary this past June.

"As a homeowner, I care about the value of my home," says Dolan, who is doing the best she can to restore her home and put into place the flood mitigation measures suggested by the government.

Her intention is to remain in the area, where she has lived for the past decade.

Dolan moved to Bowness from Rocky Ridge after her sons moved out. She was looking for a shorter commute to her office downtown, where she works as a financial adviser.

"Bowness is a mature community. It's a 10-minute car ride drive downtown and a half-an-hour commute by bike."

There is also good public transit downtown, with buses that come every five minutes.

"There was way more variety in how to get to work than just driving," says Dolan, who lives in a townhouse near a green space, just a block from the Bow River.

She describes Bowness as "a small town in a big city. People are really proud to be Bownesian. There is a lot of independent businesses in the area, and the neighbours tend to be very helpful."

Dolan has experienced the neighbourhood's friendliness first hand. When she was moving into the community, she was trying to haul a heavy object into her home by herself and someone from off the street came by and helped her move it inside.

When Dolan moved into her Bowness home, a selling point was a lot of safety measures were in place in the neighbourhood, in terms of flood protection.

"I felt quite comfortable I wouldn't ever see flooding," she recalls.