

Rebuilding the Bridge in MacDougall Park

by Lindley McPhail

This is it!! This is finally the year that there will be a footbridge put back in MacDougall Park! We are very excited about this important milestone in the rejuvenation of Russell's first public park.

The original footbridge was built around 1940 and did not survive the test of time. Learning from the past, we are now in the final planning stages for a new bridge built using a dry stone arch technique with iron railings. Dry stone bridges have stood for hundreds of years in Europe but to our knowledge it will be the first in a Canadian park.

Designed by Cindy Cluett of [Beyond the House](#), and John Shaw-Rimington of the Dry Stone Wall Association of Canada (www.dswac.ca), this bridge will be built using primarily local materials and contractors. A stately structure in harmony with its natural environments, Russell's bridge is sure to be a frequently visited and photographed landmark. But it won't happen without your help.

There are several ways you can be involved in this historic build creating a landmark in the heart of our community. Donors will be included in a book to be published about MacDougall Park Bridge. It will include stories and pictures of the original bridge, we will follow the looks and use of the park up to and including this rebuild. This book will be placed in both the library and in the Keith Boyd Museum. There will also be a commemorative plaque placed near the bridge.

You can become involved with this project in one (or more) of the following ways:

- make a monetary (tax deductible) or in-kind donation for the following; -
- fieldstone (granite) from fence rows or stone piles
- steel for the railings
- quarried stone for the arch and heartings

-financial support to cover the costs of purchased materials and construction.

AND/OR

You can buy a “virtual stone” for the bridge at a cost of \$25 per stone. This is an excellent way to give you and your children ownership of this project and increase our civic pride. This is also an excellent way to remember loved ones who have passed away.

AND/OR

Your group can make a lunch for the workers one of the days of the build. This bridge will be built, primarily by hand, in about two weeks.

AND/OR

You can make a donation of an item for auction and/or enter a team in our Trivia Night and Auction to be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Tickets are \$40 and to get some contact Connie Johnston at 613-445-3587 or conjon@yahoo.com.

Please consider joining the many others who are already involved and make this a real community project that Russell can be proud of for years to come. This bridge will outlast all of us!

