



Parkdale History Detective 2021

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A slough story tells it the way it was in the 50's. Local resident Micky Gulless remembers: "Back then, the boys across the street from our house, Bruce Smith and Larry Beattie, were both probably about 10 years old. I was about 7." She chuckles. "They dared each other to swim across the slough and they came out with leeches stuck to them".

Residents who lived in or near Parkdale from 1948 – 1960 wondered about the big slough located at the Foothills Medical Center site. Stories of the Foothills Hospital starting to sink in 1963/64 were often told. Of course others said it was "utter nonsense," which it turns out was true.

In order to understand if a problem even existed, we must go back to 1948 and an aerial photo that clearly shows a large slough, located roughly at 29 street and the TransCanada Highway. But where is the Foothills Hospital on the map? Detective work with the aid of Google Earth gives us more clues. Just 10 years later, a 1959 photo shows Parkdale, St Andrews and West Hillhurst all have developed, yet the slough remains.

Finally, the 2015 aerial photo shows the location of the slough superimposed on the Foothills Hospital site. The only thing built on the slough, which was filled in 1961, is a parking lot.

But time moves on, the government decided in 2017 to build a new \$1.2 billion Cancer Center in the slough location. I hope all goes well for the opening in 2023.



Rumors circulating in Calgary that the Foothills General Hospital, now under construction, is sinking at its foundation, have been denied by the general contractor of the building.

The rumor is that the skeleton framework of the building has sunk by as much as six inches at one end.

General contractors for the 750-bed, \$15,000,000 hospital, Christensen and Macdonald Construction Ltd., describe the rumors as "utter nonsense", and said the architects, the Alberta department of public works, had mentioned no such sinkage in recent conversations.

The contracting company said work is progressing smoothly and on schedule.

A spokesman for Dominion Bridge Co. Ltd., told The Herald that the company, responsible for the steel work on the hospital, had not been informed of any sinking in any portion of the building.

The good old days!

Aerial photos are courtesy of the U of C Taylor digital Library collection of Calgary Aerial Photos.

