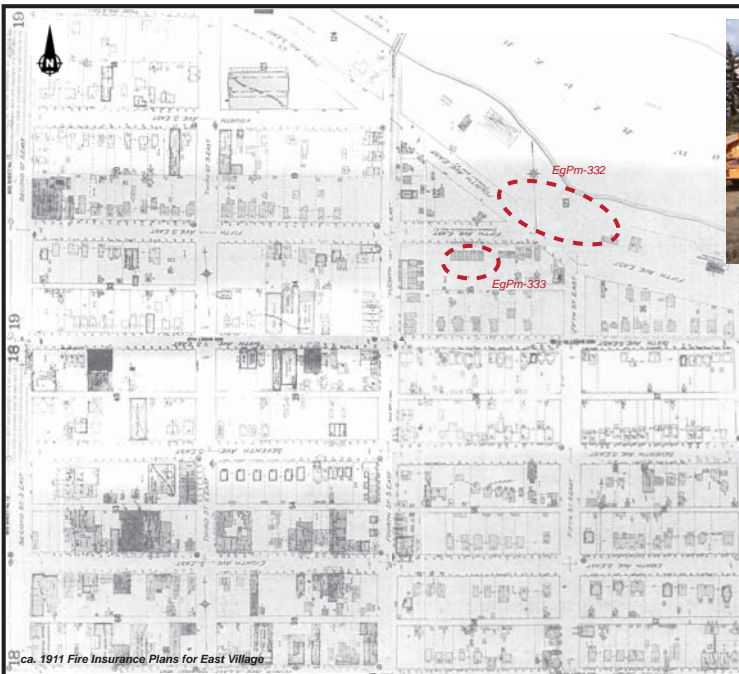
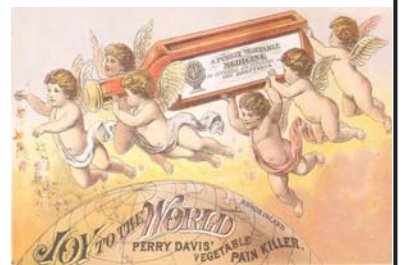


# WHAT'S NEW IS OLD IN TOWN...

## Investigating Historic Dump Sites in Downtown Calgary

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Archaeological investigations undertaken in 2008 identified two historic dump sites close to where the City of Calgary operated an incinerator on the south side of the Bow River from 1908-1914. Excavation of these two sites (EgPm-332 and EgPm-333) resulted in the recovery of broken glass and ceramics, complete bottles and butchered animal bones mixed in with assorted household hardware and rusted metal objects from the early decades of the last century.



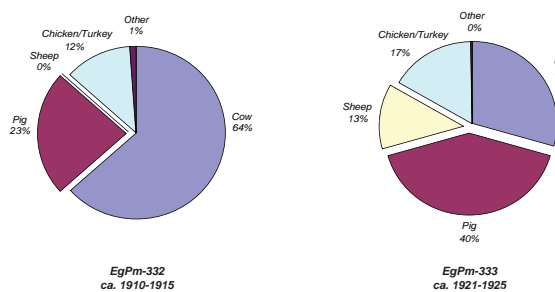
Embossed and labelled bottles and ceramics from Alberta and beyond indicate the growth in the distribution of commercial products across North America. Local companies such as the Carlyle Dairy, Calgary Brewery and Calgary Wine and Spirit Company were represented along with popular products such as "Dr. S.N. Thomas Eclectic Oil", "Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce" and "Gordon's Dry Gin" imported from afar.



Temporally diagnostic bottles indicate refuse at EgPm-332 dates to ca. 1910-1915, while the second dump located at EgPm-333 figures to date ca. 1921-1925. Comparisons of artifactual material recovered from the two dumps illustrate changes in socioeconomic consumption patterns during this early era in the City of Calgary.



Discarded Bones from animals butchered and eaten indicate subtle shifts in dietary preference associated with Calgary's growing population. The early fondness for Beef (64% of the EgPm-332 assemblage) is replaced by the varied diet of Beef, Pork, and Sheep seen in later times.



This shift corresponds with the growing diversity of Calgary's population and reduced land base favouring smaller penned animals such as pigs and sheep over the open ranges needed for cattle ranching.



Changes in transportation wrought by the introduction of the car are evident in the different artifacts recovered. The many horseshoes, discarded hames, pieces of broken harnesses and other tack recovered from the earlier dump illustrate the importance of horses up until 1915. In the later dump these many horse accoutrements were absent, replaced by a fender, steering wheel, gearshift and other parts of a Model T illustrative of the dominance of motorized transport.



A Complete Line of Model T's to Choose From



Grindley Hotel wares were found to be common place in the ceramic assemblages. Labels indicate some of these were from local establishments such as the Imperial Hotel and the Alberta Hotel on 1st St. SW, while other pieces from the American Hotel in Fort MacLeod and the Manitoba Hotel in Winnipeg indicate items were curated and transported far from their business of origin.



Although they made up little more than 1% of Calgary's population during the early decades of the 1900s, distinctive artifacts associated with ethnic Chinese populations make it easy to identify their presence in the archaeological record.



Today East Village is the scene of one of the largest urban renewal projects in downtown Calgary. In planning the facelift of the area, the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation has remained mindful of the historic heritage of the neighbourhood and renovated many of the older buildings to bring them back to life.



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