



THE ALEXANDRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

SEPTEMBER 2009 — COMMUNITY EDITION

CALLING ALL ALEXANDRANS GET YOUR 2009/10 QAACL MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Community Leagues are volunteer not-for-profit organizations formed to meet the needs and purpose of residents within a defined geographic area. Queen Alexandra's borders enclose an area between 70 Avenue and Whyte Avenue and between 109 Street and Calgary Trail. Recognized by the city as the primary speaking body for the community, becoming a member of your Community League means that your voice is heard when it comes to city planning, recreation, transportation and other topics. Not only this, but choosing to volunteer with the Community League provides an opportunity to give back to the community while getting to know your neighbours and new friends.

If that's not already enough for you, signing up also entitles you to discounts including:

- City of Edmonton sports and fitness facilities;
- Professional sports games;
- Performances put on by the Northern Lights Folk Club;
- Reduced rental rates for the Queen Alexandra Community Hall;
- Free swim pass good for 40 swims at Scona Pool; and
- Free Skate tags

So, what are you waiting for? Visit www.qaocl.ca to download the membership form, or sign up online at www.efcl.org. For more information, contact Judy at membership@qaocl.ca or 780-433-9258.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE GAME DAY GET YOUR TICKETS FOR OCTOBER 9TH ESKIMO GAME

Community League Game Day is October 9 when the Eskimos take on the BC Lions. Lower bowl seats in section Z are available to Community League members at a special rate of \$18 through EFCL only. Membership card number must be provided in additional instructions in your order. We reserve the right to limit quantities to 6 tickets

per person or 20 per league.

Tickets will be mailed for purchases up until October 2. After that purchases made online will be made available by an EFCL representative in front of Gate 13. You will see the yellow hat!



For more information or to buy tickets online, visit www.efcl.org.

INSIDE

PAGE 2

- President's Message
- Planning & Development Report

PAGE 3

- Big Box Everything
- Sports Report
- Spray Park Update

PAGE 4

- Notes from the City
- Helping Hands
- Calendar

SCONA POOL IS OPEN!

Scona Pool is now open again, and being managed by River City Recreation. A whole host of great registered classes and swim times are available, whether you are four months old or 99 years old. There are aquasize, baby swimming, moms and tots, red cross lessons, early bird swim, daily public swim, family swim, private lessons and pool rental opportunities.

Visit the Scona Pool website at www.sconapool.com or phone 780-496-8756 for additional information.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Mailing Address

PO Box 4546
Edmonton AB T6E 5G4

Hall Address

10425 University Avenue

URL www.qacl.ca

Email info@qacl.ca

Hall Rentals hall@qacl.ca

Membership membership@qacl.ca

Newsletter news@qacl.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Doug Bailie

1st Vice President

Marco Campana

2nd Vice President

vacant

Secretary

Myles Kitagawa

Treasurer

Kim Sanderson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Neighbourhood Planning

Micheal Guirguis

Membership

Judy Troyer

Building and Grounds

vacant

Publicity

Julie Kusiek

Program

Lindsay Telfer

Social

vacant

Sports

Sue Wasson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Doug Bailie

The Community League is an excellent way to get involved in your neighbourhood. The league provides a variety of ways for the residents of Queen Alexandra to build the community through social and recreational activities and by giving residents a voice in issues of concern to the neighbourhood.

Whether you have a concern you'd like to see addressed or you're interested in getting to know your neighbours, the league is for you. This newsletter has information on the league's activities and various ways you can get involved.

I'd also like to point out that all members are welcome to participate in the league's monthly meetings which are held on the last Tuesday of each month (except December, July and August) at 7 pm at the community

league hall. The league also has various committees, including Membership, Building and Grounds, Publicity, Planning and Development, and Programs, which can always use more volunteers.

Whatever your interest and whatever time you're willing to commit, the league can use your support and participation.

Being involved in the community league has allowed me to learn a lot about my neighbourhood and the people who live here. I believe Queen Alexandra is a great place to live. We can make it even better by working together.

Doug Bailie is the President of the Queen Alexandra Community League. He can be contacted at president@qacl.ca.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

On Aug 15th, 2009 the League received notice that Gino's Restaurant (7618 104 Street NW) had applied for a zoning change to "Bar and Neighborhood Pub". The notice stated that the city had approved the change despite inadequate on-site parking, but that parking would be provided at a nearby location.

Further investigation has revealed that Gino's parking would be across Calgary Trail at 7707 105 Street. If you have any concerns or comments on this permit change please direct them to the Subdivision

and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) before September 24th, 2009:

SDAB

Office of the City Clerk
3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7

Cite project number: **87913324-001**

For more information on planning & development issues, please contact the P & D committee chair, Micheal Guirguis at planning@qacl.ca.

FOR THE LATEST LEAGUE NEWS VISIT WWW.QACL.CA

BIG BOX EVERYTHING

by Allan Bolstad

First we saw big box shopping, where local stores gave away to regional power centres.

Then big box churches became all the rage, where various denominations abandoned the local, neighbourhood church in favor of a 2,000 seat facility that serves an entire sector of the city.

Big box schools are now arriving en masse. Once again, it seems that no one in a position of power is much interested in the 200-seat neighbourhood school anymore. All of the new P3 facilities, which are beginning to descend on Edmonton and elsewhere, will house between 600 and 1,100 students and will serve a cluster of neighbourhoods.

And right on their heels is big box recreation. It seems everyone wants a multiplex recreation centre these days. And one facility that is generating a good deal of discussion at the EFCL is a proposal by the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association to develop a 27-field outdoor soccer complex next to Big Lake on the northwest boundary of Edmonton.

Now there's no denying that new recreation facilities are needed and desired by Edmontonians.

But these large facilities come with a catch. It's called accessibility.

Stop to consider the difficulty some parents have shuttling their children across town to games and practices. Could this be one of the reasons over 70% of school-aged children in Edmonton don't play an organized sport?

Stop to consider the time parents spend playing chauffeur, often-times as much as two hours per day during the height of a sports season. These parents still have to work and still have to sleep. So what gets eliminated? Opportunities to volunteer perhaps?

Stop to consider the impact of children on teams where most of their teammates live well beyond the limits of a walk or bike ride. How many lasting friendships can they develop?

Stop to consider the transportation costs, whether it's in cars, gas, roads or pollution. All of it adds up, bit by bit, across a tremendous number of people.

As an organization designed to promote neighbourhood development through neighbourhood networking and community building, this trend toward Big Box Everything is becoming a major concern to the EFCL.

In fact, many people here are thinking it's time to reverse this trend a little bit, to encourage people to do more things closer to home.

It could save everyone a lot of time and expense.

And it just might be the neighbourly thing to do.

Allan Bolstad is the Executive Director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. This editorial was originally published in the September 4 issue of Community Currents, the EFCL newsletter.

CARE WHAT'S BUILT IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

NEED ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH COUNCIL?

Contact Bev – EFCL's planning advisor – bev.zubot@efcl.org

SPORTS

Over the summer the Queen Alexandra Community League hosted drop-in sports activities for kids at Mount Carmel school (10524 76 Avenue). This field will continue to be booked on Tuesday evenings, between 6 and 8 pm until the end of September. So come on by and join the fun!

SOUTHWEST EDMONTON MINOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION (SWEMSA)

- Registration for indoor soccer closed September 15;
- SWEMSA is looking for referees, age 14 and up for U8 through U18.
- For more information visit www.swemsa.com

SWAT HOCKEY

- Accepting late online registration.
- Visit www.swat.ab.ca for registration & information.

Sue Wasson is the League Sports Chair. Sue can be reached at sports@qacl.ca.

SPRAY PARK

Woo hoo! With so much beautiful, hot weather late this summer, wouldn't you just love to jump through a sprinkler? Or perhaps a neighbourhood spray park? Well, one is in the works for the park on 73 Avenue and 107 Street. Plans to refit the wading pool beside the playground into a spray park are available to anyone who is interested. If you have questions or would like to help the effort, please contact Ann at spraypark@qacl.ca.

NOTES FROM THE CITY

JOIN YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth 13-23 years old who want to make a difference in Edmonton, are invited to apply to be a General Assembly Delegate for the City of Edmonton Youth Council. The deadline for the 2009/2010 term is September 28, 2009.

Application forms can be found at www.ceyc.ca & can be submitted online, by fax or mail. Please email youth.council@edmonton.ca if you have other questions.

Y-EDMONTON

The City of Edmonton has websites designed for young Edmontonians— one for kids and one for teens. There's information on things to do, safety, transportation, and how to get involved and make Edmonton an even better city. Go to www.yedmonton.ca and check it out.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The City of Edmonton is pleased to announce the launch of the Neighbourhood Park Development Program

Supporting the creation of great spaces and fun places for play, wellness, activity & learning in our parks. The program provides opportunity for neighbourhoods to create and/or improve their parks, landscaping, community gardens, playgrounds, water features, benches, walking trails & much more.

If this interests you or if you have a project in mind please contact the League to make your ideas heard!

HELPING HANDS

YARD WORK FOR SENIORS MEALS ON WHEELS

Lifestyle Helping Hands Seniors Association

- Snow removal, lawn care, odd jobs, volunteer drivers, outreach services
- Must be a member to access home help services & be matched with a worker. Membership is \$10.
- Phone 780-450-2113

Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton

- Snow Removal, yard maintenance, other services as requested by seniors in their homes
- Must be a member to access home help services & be matched with a worker. Membership is \$20.
- Phone 780-701-9011

Home Service 780-701-9007

Seniors Caring About Seniors

- Yard work, house work, odd jobs and driving
- Must be a member to access home help services & be matched with a worker. Membership is \$10.
- Phone 780-465-0311

Meals on Wheels isn't just about meal delivery to homes. There are two other programs that you may be interested in learning about.

The Grocery Bag is a new program being offered to anyone who is unable to grocery shop for themselves, has limited transportation options for grocery shopping or is currently a Meals on Wheels client. Grocery orders are placed weekly and delivered by a volunteer to your home.

Once a month Meals on Wheels has created a lunch and learn opportunity as part of their "Eating Made Easy: Healthy Eating for a Healthy You" series. Upcoming sessions include Label Reading 101 (October 6), What's the Fuss About Fibre (November 3) and What's on Your Menu (December 1). Sessions are held from noon until 12:45. Bring a bag lunch or enjoy the meal of the day for only \$2.25. For more information or to register, call 780-429-2020.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 24, 6-9pm

QACL Veggie Potluck *Queen Alex Community Hall*

For more info email lindsay.telfer@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Armoury Youth Centre Opening, *10310 85 Avenue*

Pancake Breakfast Sat & Sun 8-10:30am • Tours Sat 9am-4:30pm Sun 9am-3pm • Afternoon BBQ Sat & Sun

SEPTEMBER 27, ALL DAY

City of Edmonton Free Admission Day (*various City facilities*)

Visit www.edmonton.ca for more details.

SEPTEMBER 29, 7PM

QACL Monthly General Meeting, *Queen Alex Community Hall (upstairs)*

All members are encouraged to attend.