



# THE ALEXANDRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

FEBRUARY 2010 — MEMBERS' EDITION

## SOUTH SCONA PARKING LOT

The South Scona Parking Lot east of 105 Street between 80 and 81 Avenue is the only public parking lot in Old Strathcona south of Whyte Avenue. The city owns this lot, but it has been managed by the Old Strathcona Business Association (OSBA) for many years. The city receives nearly \$100,000 per year in taxes & revenue from this lot. At its February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Executive Committee of City Council is expected to recommend that a request for proposals to redevelop this parking lot be issued.

The League will be again sending a letter to Executive Committee and our councillors indicating our support for keeping the parking lot under the management of the OSBA. We encourage Queen Alexandra residents to make your voices heard on this matter as well.

The South Scona parking lot contains 288 parking stalls for visitors, equivalent to 25 blocks of parking on neighbourhood streets. Parking on the streets is free but may inconvenience residents through the loss of on-street parking, as well as disruptions & safety concerns as people return to their cars late at night.

The OSBA has never implemented predatory parking

practices, keeping rates modest & not towing. They have been responsible in their management of the lot— having a paid attendant on duty, & allowing patrons who are unable to drive home to leave their vehicles overnight on Saturday for no additional charge.

This parking lot is in the centre of the entertainment district. Much of the existing development was approved based on the overall parking availability including the South Scona Parking Lot.

It is also in the centre of a heritage area. No further buildings can be lifted for underground parkades; no demolitions; & no opportunity for future parking lots. Many heritage buildings do not & cannot supply parking for patrons or staff.

One of the rationale for selling the lot is the need for extensive upgrades. However, the provision of parking, likely a parkade structure, for a new development will be expensive. These costs will likely be passed on to consumers, parking rules will be strictly enforced & vehicles towed. These realities will encourage visitors to spend their dollars where parking is “free” or incent them to park on the neighbourhood streets. Added to this is the resistance that patrons and staff have towards parkades, as

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## LEAGUE EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

FEBRUARY 23, 7:00PM  
**Monthly General Meeting**

*All League events are held at the  
Queen Alexandra Community  
Hall (10425 University Avenue)*

## QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

### Mailing Address

PO Box 4546  
Edmonton AB T6E 5G4

### Hall Address

10425 University Avenue

URL [www.qacl.ca](http://www.qacl.ca)

Email [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca)

Hall Rentals [hall@qacl.ca](mailto:hall@qacl.ca)

Membership [membership@qacl.ca](mailto:membership@qacl.ca)

Newsletter [news@qacl.ca](mailto:news@qacl.ca)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marco Campana

### 2nd Vice President

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### Program

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## SCONA POOL

You may have received information from the City of Edmonton on the changes to recreation passes to City of Edmonton facilities. This brochure does not list Scona Pool as an eligible facility and 311 operators are also telling callers it is ineligible. This is not accurate. Scona Pool is accepting City of Edmonton recreation passes. The League is working with our councillors to get the messaging corrected.

Congratulations to Norm Shandro, winner of Queen Alexandra's Swim Pass Challenge. He was the first one to use up all 40 free swims members get with their League membership. Norm will be receiving another free 40 swims complements of the league. Unfortunately, that means the contest is over and no additional swim passes will be awarded. However, the great news is that we have a pool to swim in for 2010... so get splashing!

## SNOW ANGELS

Are you a senior who could use a hand getting your snow shovelled? Call the Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE) at 780-423-5510 to get linked with a volunteer.

If you've already found a volunteer to shovel your walks, let the City of Edmonton help you to thank them. Nominate your Snow Angel. Call 311 or visit [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca).

## OSACC REPORT

### BOYLE STREET

The Winter Warming Van is out and cruises Whyte Avenue and area from 2-10 pm. When should you call the van? Call if you see anyone in distress, looking really cold, or if you know of a regular sleeping location used by the homeless. The van will check on these people to ensure their well being. The number is 780-554-2795.

### STRATHCONA LIBRARY

Need help finding a book, researching a topic of interest or using an online database? Call 780-496-1888 for any library-related questions. The library is also giving tours on using the library and the electronic support available. For a list of library events, including seniors' programs go to <http://www.epl.ca> or call the number above.

### YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER

The new drop in centre at the Armoury is up and running! The first three weeks have seen 67 different youth stopping in for services. In other news, the Yardbird Suite and Cosmopolitan Music Society have offered snow removal jobs to the teenagers. These young people also volunteered at Ice on Whyte. Is this great or what?

# PARK REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Submitted by Ann Brown, Parks Committee Chair

A couple of years ago, the Parks Committee took on the responsibility to determine what is required to redevelop our park on 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. due to public health concerns with standing water, the water area is no longer feasible to operate. We met a number of times to view other spray parks in Edmonton, collect information from community members and write grant applications on behalf of the League. We have completed a concept plan and initial layout plans for the implementation of a spray park. With the plans endorsed by League members, we have continued to meet with city officials to finalize detailed working and installment plans.

The total cost of these upgrades are projected to be \$376,280. The City of Edmonton will provide the bulk of funding required and the Community League to date has committed \$60,000. It is anticipated that remaining monies will come from grant applications. If we receive one of the grants we applied for (CFEP) we will be able to include a gazebo for shade that will house

secured tables (chess/checker board embedded), a bicycle rack and extra benches. Without the grant, the cost for these additions would be \$64,000.

Tentative scheduling is as follows:

- **January/February** Finalize layout and implementation plans with the supplier and the City of Edmonton, Parks & Recreation.
- **March/April** Installation Process will be put out for Tender Bids by the City
- **May/June** Construction begins (includes removal of the old pool and concrete)
- **July** Park Opens (pending construction progress)

Thank you to everyone who shared their ideas—you've helped develop a great park proposal. It is well recognized that outdoor play provides opportunities and experiences not available indoors. When completed, our park redevelopment will give our community members a picnic area, interactive play experiences and lot of fun summer days of outside water play to complement the playground equipment area.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The League is considering offering a course on planning and development, free for league members. This would help more of us understand the steps in the planning process and how development proposals work. If you would be interested in participating

in such a course, please email: [plancourse@qacl.ca](mailto:plancourse@qacl.ca) with your name and phone number and we'll keep you posted if this goes ahead. No computer? Send a note to:

PO Box 4546  
Edmonton AB T6E 5G4.

## PARKING LOT

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these structures simply do not feel as safe as ground-level parking where there is an attendant.

Canada Post has indicated that they will leave Old Strathcona if they lose this parking space for their trucks & staff. This would force residents & local businesses who use this post office to drive to another location. Other businesses that rely on this parking space for their staff, students, & customers will also be hurt.

Both the Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan & the Whyte Avenue Strategic Plan cite the city-owned parking lot as essential.

Some of the people who worked the hardest to revitalize the commercial area were residents of the surrounding communities. Continuing operation of the Lot by OSBA is a key component to its ongoing success. We encourage you to contact Executive Committee & these councillors:

### Executive Committee

c/o Office of the Councillors  
2nd Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton AB T5J 2R7  
Fax: 780-496-8113  
[councillors@edmonton.ca](mailto:councillors@edmonton.ca)

- **Don Iveson**, 780-496-8132  
[don.iveson@edmonton.ca](mailto:don.iveson@edmonton.ca)
- **Bryan Anderson**, 780-496-8130  
[bryan.anderson@edmonton.ca](mailto:bryan.anderson@edmonton.ca)
- **Jane Batty**, 780-496-8140  
[jane.batty@edmonton.ca](mailto:jane.batty@edmonton.ca)
- **Ben Henderson**, 780-496-8146  
[ben.henderson@edmonton.ca](mailto:ben.henderson@edmonton.ca)

Or mail or fax your councillor at the address & number above.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**MONDAYS & THURSDAYS 6:00-7:00PM**

**Ladies' Fitness Class** *Queen Alexandra Community Hall (10425 University Avenue)*

For more info, contact Kim at [kolson@nait.ca](mailto:kolson@nait.ca).

**TUESDAYS 6:00-7:00PM**

**Y Toastmasters Club** *EFCL (7103 105 Street)*

Call 780-433-7250 or [www.ytoastmastersclub.ca](http://www.ytoastmastersclub.ca).

**FEBRUARY 5-14**

**Fringe Theatre Festival presents The Tortoise and the Hare** (a family production).

Visit [www.fringetheatre.ca/tortoise\\_hare.php](http://www.fringetheatre.ca/tortoise_hare.php) for details

**FEBRUARY 10, 6:00-8:00PM**

**Allendale Outdoor Soccer Registration** *Allendale Community Hall (6330 105A Street)*

**FEBRUARY 21, 1:00-3:00PM OR FEBRUARY 22, 5:00-6:00PM**

**Parkallen Outdoor Soccer Registration** *Parkallen Community Hall (11104 65 Avenue)*

**FEBRUARY 23**

**Community Building Conference** *Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre (11834 Kingsway Avenue)*

Registration is \$175 but some bursaries are available. Go to [www.a4hc.ca](http://www.a4hc.ca) or call 780-944-4687 for details.

**FEBRUARY 23, 7:00PM**

**QACL Monthly Meeting** *Queen Alexandra Community Hall (10425 University Avenue)*

All members are welcome to attend.

**MARCH 6, 8:00PM**

**Lynn Miles** *Queen Alexandra Community Hall (10425 University Avenue)*

Visit [www.northernlightsfc.ca](http://www.northernlightsfc.ca) for more details. Queen Alex members receive a discount at the door.

**MARCH 6, 9:30-11:30PM**

**Belmac Outdoor Soccer Registration** *McKernan Community Hall (11341 78 Avenue)*

**MARCH 7, 12:00NOON-3:30PM**

**Belmac Outdoor Soccer Registration** *Belgravia Community Hall (11605 74 Avenue)*

**MARCH 17**

**Green Circle Preschool Open House & Registration** *Parkallen Elementary School*

Call Dyane at 780-436-5408 for details

**MARCH 24, 6:00PM-7:00PM**

**Belgravia Elementary School Open House & Registration** *Belgravia School (11505 74 Avenue)*

More information at [www.belgravia.epsb.ca](http://www.belgravia.epsb.ca). Belgravia Out of School Care [www.ebosc.ca](http://www.ebosc.ca).

**MARCH 25, 6:30PM-7:30PM**

**Queen Alexandra Elementary School Open House** *Queen Alexandra School*

Tuition-free non-denominational Christian program. More information at [www.queenalexandra.epsb.ca](http://www.queenalexandra.epsb.ca).