



THE ALEXANDRA

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

FALL 2011

ALL ABOUT QAACL

If you're reading this newsletter, you're a very lucky person. Why? Because you live in one of the most vibrant, friendly, and walkable neighbourhoods in the city. If you're new – welcome! If you're a long time resident – it is good to see you back.

Queen Alexandra Community League is your connection to meeting new neighbors and getting

involved in the fun and exciting events happening around the Old Strathcona & Whyte Avenue area. It is also your ticket to being in the know regarding planning, development, & other activities within our borders.

Inside these pages, you'll find more information on the great things the League is doing to make our neighbourhood great.

MEMBERSHIP DAY & SCONA POOL PARTY!

On Saturday, September 17 from 2-5 pm the League will be hosting our annual membership drive at Scona Pool (10450 72 Avenue). Please bring your completed membership form and fee to enjoy a free swim and food. Fat Franks will be serving hot dogs and veggie burgers beginning at 3 pm.

Friends of Scona Pool will also be at Scona Pool on Membership Day to help really make the party rock. This also kicks off a week of free* and fun activities for all ages happening at Scona Pool. The week's activities include a Ward gathering and party hosted by EPSB Trustee Michael Janz, kayaking by the United Albertan Paddling Society, and a sampler of other aquatic activities courtesy of RiverCity Recreation. Stay tuned for more details by visiting the event calendar at www.qacl.ca. **Note: not all activities during the week will be free.*

For more information on the benefits of membership, see page 4.

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LEAGUE EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2:00PM-5:00PM

Membership Day Pool Party
Scona Pool

SEPTEMBER 22, 7:00-9:00PM

Tipton Park Conversation Café
Queen Alexandra Hall

SEPTEMBER 27, 7:00PM

QAACL General Meeting
Queen Alexandra Hall

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS HOW I MET MY NEIGHBOURS

by Julie Kusiek

This is the first installment of a new feature called "Community Connections." This column will share stories about some of our great neighbours, or ideas on how to get to know your neighbours better. If you have a story or idea to share, send it to news@qacl.ca.

Although I had lived in Queen Alexandra for over a year, my contact with neighbours was limited to those who lived in the houses directly to the east and west of mine. It wasn't until I met Lori-anne that all that changed.

Coming out of my house, frazzled, with a crying baby in her bucket car seat, and late for my yoga class I met Lori-anne and her kids. She said "Oh, are you new to the neighbourhood?" then proceeded to take my baby, car seat and all, out of my hand and swung her back and forth. Within about 2.1 seconds my daughter had stopped crying. Amazing.

Now that the crying had stopped we exchanged a few quick words and then Lori-anne offered to drop off her contact info in my mailbox next time she walked by so that we could get together for coffee. It was there by the next day, complete with welcome card and the names of all her family members.

I followed up with a phone call and by Friday I was sitting in Lori-anne's living room. It was great! By the following week, Lori-anne walked down the block to my house at 8:15am on a Wednesday, in her

pajamas, to invite me over for coffee, since she was having a bunch of other people from the neighbourhood over that morning. No need to get prettied up, just come on over. And I did. That was my introduction to 74th avenue and many more morning coffees.

I've since tried what I call "Lori's method" to get to know others in the neighbourhood. If you're up to it, go for it too. It is a great way to get to get connected.

STEPS

1. Identify someone you think you'll have common interests with (e.g., kids, gardening, dogs, hobbies, etc.)
2. Offer to exchange contact info, then do it.
3. Follow-up with a phone call to pick a date within the next week or two to get together, 1-on-1.
4. Follow-up after that to invite the new person to hang out with you and perhaps some other neighbourhood friends you're already getting together with.
5. Continue to invite new people to things you're doing – even if it's last minute. They're probably really glad that you are, even if they can't always make it.

PICNIC KICKS OFF TIPTON PARK REDEVELOPMENT



Fifty adults and kids gathered at Tipton Park on August 20 to think creatively about what the park could look like in the future. Ideas generated at the picnic will be brought to the September 22 Conversation Café from 7 to 9 pm at the Queen Alexandra Community Hall. Come with your ideas!

SPRAY PARK SUCCESS STORY

by Ann Brown, Spray Park Committee Co-chair

The Spray Park Committee was formed to ensure the League had a say in the redevelopment of our existing wading pool in the Park at 71 Avenue and 107 Street. Discussions were held at meetings, through newsletters, and at membership sign-ups to engage Queen Alexandrans, and to talk about our Vision for the park. Using these ideas a formal plan was put together to obtain an estimate for the new spray park which was to be a destination for families.

With assistance from the Strathcona Centre Community League and our Community Recreation Coordinator, the committee developed a business plan that was presented for a grant from the Alberta Lotteries Fund. Commitments were obtained from the League for



specific items at the park and with a grant from the City of Edmonton, the plan was finally put into gear.

The grand opening held this June had a spectacular turn out with over 200 people enjoying the park. Although we have had some challenges with the sewer pipe, the park is being enjoyed by many families and has become a destination. Projects like this are a tangible way for anyone to make a difference in their community.

TIPTON PARK COMMITTEE

Inspired by the spray park project? Consider participating in the redevelopment of Tipton Park.

Tipton Park, located on the corner of 108 Street and 80 Avenue, has been a space for recreation in our community since 1924. Join the Tipton Park Redevelopment Committee to help re-create this park space for the future. Committee roles include: hosting four community input meetings, creating a community vision for the park space, working with city planners and landscape architects, and submitting applications to the city and province for grant funding. For more information, contact Sheila Campbell at 780-428-8784 or tiptonpark@qacl.ca, or visit www.qacl.ca.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY LEAGUE...

Membership in the Queen Alex Community League gives you the opportunity to:

- Meet your neighbours, and join them at community social events;
- Participate in community programs, sports & other recreational activities;
- Have a voice and vote on community issues & programs;
- Provide input into Planning & Development issues such as zoning changes, transportation, parks & green spaces;
- Help strengthen your community.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Discounts at City of Edmonton Leisure, Sports & Fitness facilities;
- Discount tickets to selected professional sports games;
- Discounts at the door for Northern Lights Folk Club performances at the QA Hall (quantities limited);
- Reduced rental rates for the Queen Alexandra Hall;
- 40 free swims at Scona Pool;
- Free skating at community league rinks across the city.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Family (2 adults & kids) \$20
- Single Family (1 adult & kids) \$10
- Senior Couple— \$10
- Individual— \$10
- Senior Individual— \$5

THREE WAYS TO JOIN

- Attend our September 17 Membership Day party;
- Mail your completed membership form and the appropriate fee to QACL; or
- Purchase your membership online at www.efcl.org.

Questions about membership? Contact Judy at membership@qacl.ca.

...AND GET INVOLVED!

Our community league depends on the hard work of volunteers who give willingly of their time and talents in an effort to make their community a better place to live. It's a great way to get involved and to meet your neighbours.

STANDING COMMITTEES

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The City of Edmonton informs the community league of proposed developments, zoning applications, and a number of other initiatives and projects that shape the urban form of Queen Alexandra.

The QACL is recognized as a stakeholder in these projects, and the planning and development committee represents the league in discussions with the City and developers.

Our committee consults with the QACL board and the community at-large in order to take its position in these discussions, and it does its best to have the wants and needs of the community represented in the final form of these projects. As a general goal, we want to take positions that help Queen Alexandra embody a vision of a family-friendly, human-scaled, and sustainable inner-city neighbourhood.

Projects that are currently on the go include: two proposed com-

mercial developments on 76 Avenue, a stacked rowhouse development on 79 Avenue, & the Tipton Park renewal.

The Chair of the committee is John Thompson, and current members include Sheila Campbell, Gordon Edmiston, and Micheal Guirguis. For more information, contact John at planning@qacl.ca.

PUBLICITY

The QACL publicity committee is a busy place. Our job is to ensure that members know what is going on in the community before or as it happens – not after the fact. This includes League and other

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GET INVOLVED!

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community events, development proposals, and news from the City. Every year, we send out 10 newsletters to League members and four newsletters to the entire neighbourhood. Between newsletters, time-sensitive information is sent via email to members and posted on our website.

Some of volunteer jobs that make this committee tick include:

- Newsletter – Writing, Design & Layout, Printing & Production, Distribution;
- Website & Email Mailing Lists;
- Updating the League Sign.

The Committee Chair is Julie Kusiek, and current volunteers include Russ Miyagawa, Pete Shandro, Ken Bond, Robin Cleator, Nancy Culyer, John Dean, & Tim Fitzpatrick. The committee is always excited to get new volunteers & new Publicity ideas: contact Julie at news@qacl.ca.

MEMBERSHIP

The job of this Committee is to make memberships available to any community resident within the defined geographic area of Queen Alexandra Community League and to keep an up-to-date list of members. Our membership fees have remained the same for years as we want membership in Queen Alexandra Community League to be affordable and

accessible and we want our residents to join, be informed and involved.

This year the Membership Committee would like to formulate actions to welcome new residents into the community.

The Committee Chair is Judy Troyer, and current members include Suzanne Cook, Diane Millar, and Jaie Phillips. For more information or to volunteer, contact Judy at membership@qacl.ca.

PROGRAMS

Ever wonder who plans all those fun activities throughout the year in our neighbourhood? It's probably Suzanne Lewis and her Programs Committee. Fun neighbourhood activities over recent years include a re-use fair, Christmas party and potlucks. If you have program ideas, or want to lend a hand, contact Suzanne at programs@qacl.ca.

SPORTS

Sue Wasson heads up the Sports Committee. The current QA sports activity being hosted by the league is drop-in sports, for all ages, at Mount Carmel school field. Games available are: soccer, baseball, lacrosse, volleyball and badminton. The QA CL Leader will bring sports equipment to the field for everyone to use. The sports drop-in will run until the last Tuesday in September.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

OSACC

The QA CL representative on the Old Strathcona Area Community Council (OSACC) serves as a liaison amongst the Council members and the League. By establishing rapport with other community representatives (churches, businesses, service agencies, etc.) the resources of the QA CL membership are increased and involvement with OSACC provides a venue for informing others about our community initiatives. As QA CL representative on OSACC, attendance and note-taking at monthly meetings of both QA CL and OSACC are required. Our current OSACC rep is Nona German.

BABYSITTING REGISTRY

Are you a babysitter in the area or a parent looking for someone to watch your kids? Queen Alexandra has a babysitting registry. Interested babysitters can list their name in the community registry (your name and contact information won't be posted anywhere) and interested parents can contact the league to be put in touch with a babysitter. Email Marilyn Covello at babysitter@qacl.ca to list your name or to find a babysitter.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

by Brendan Kusiek, Sustainability Committee Chair

Julie and I moved into our home on the corner of 106 Street and 74 Avenue three years ago. We have been fortunate to meet a lot of great people in the neighbourhood and it seems to us that one of the most important investments people can make to enrich their own lives is getting to know their neighbours. Being on a first name basis with your neighbours make a community friendlier, safer, and more resilient, to name just a few of the benefits.

That's why this autumn, the community league is launching the Queen Alexandra Community Connection. Next time you walk by our house (it is the one with the bamboo fence) look for the Community Connection sign in our front yard. By planting a

Community Connection sign in our front yard, we are committing to meeting our neighbours, building some neighbourly rapport, and encouraging others to do the same.

I know there are lots of you out there who automatically greet the new family on the block but I also know it is a foreign concept to many. If you are already comfortable knocking on your neighbours door and asking for a cup of sugar, we want to hear from you. If you have a busy career, commitments too numerous to count, a to-do list too long to write down, and no time to meet your neighbours, we especially want to hear from you. Email communityconnection@qacl.ca or call us at 780-434-3787.

ANOTHER COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Edie McIntyre, who has lived in Queen Alexandra for most of her life, will be the 2011 Artist in Residence at Mackie Lake House. We wanted to congratulate Edie on this honour! She will be there from August 25 to September 3 and if you should be in the area (Mackie House is located right outside Vernon, B.C.), you might want to drop in and see her. www.mackiehouse.ca

NEWS FROM THE CITY

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

The City of Edmonton has launched an awareness campaign about responsible dog ownership. Dogs should always be on a leash in public, unless they are in a designated off-leash area. Dog owners are also required to scoop any poop their pet leaves behind to ensure that our parks, sidewalks, and other public areas remain attractive, clean and healthy places for both people and animals. Free, biodegradable poop bags are available at all off-leash parks.

The fine for not cleaning up after your dog, not using a leash or not properly controlling your dog in an off-leash area is \$100. More information is available at www.edmonton.ca or by calling 311.



**GET THE LATEST LEAGUE NEWS
& UPDATES AT WWW.QACL.CA**

Queen Alexandra Community League Membership Form

Date _____

\$20 for family with two

\$10 for single parent families, individuals, or senior couple

\$5 for single senior

Renewing membership _____ New membership _____

Name of first adult _____

Name of second adult _____

Address _____ Postal code _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Would you like to be on the e-mail mailing list: Yes _____ No _____

Would you prefer to receive your Newsletter by _____ e-mail _____ Canada Post

Names of children (first and last name) birth date (Y/M/D) M/F

Would you like a door sticker? Yes ___ No ___ Number of skate tags needed _____

Swim pass required? Yes ___ No ___

What activities interest you? What can you volunteer for?

___ transportation and neighbourhood
planning

___ work a casino

___ organizing social events

___ special events (e.g., Family Day social)

___ Christmas carolling

___ pot-luck dinners

___ coaching soccer

___ playing soccer

___ co-operative purchasing

___ organizing a block party

___ organizing community garden

___ Neighbourhood Watch

___ serving on the league board

___ concerts / cultural events

___ contributing to the newsletter

___ community garage sale at the hall

___ other? _____

For more information, contact Judy Troyer at 780-433-9258 or membership@qacl.ca. Please mail completed membership form with your cheque, payable to Queen Alexandra Community League, to:

Queen Alexandra Community League, Box 4546, Edmonton, AB T6E 5G4

Information collected on this form is used solely for Queen Alexandra Community League purposes and will not be sold or given to any third party.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 6, 13 & 20 6:00PM–8:00PM

Drop-in Sports for Kids

Our Lady of Mount Carmel field (106 Street & 76 Avenue)

The QACL leader will provide equipment for everyone. Games available include soccer, baseball, lacrosse, volleyball & badminton. Weather permitting.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2:00PM–5:00PM

Membership Day & Scona Pool Party

Scona Pool (10450 72 Avenue)

Join QACL & the Friends of Scona Pool us for a free swim, music, games, and Fat Franks. Renew your community league membership, celebrate the reopening of Scona Pool, and pick up your passport to the "**I Swim Scona**" Weeklong Pool Party.

SEPTEMBER 17-23

"I Swim Scona" Weeklong Pool Party

Scona Pool (10450 72 Avenue)

Celebrate the re-opening of Scona Pool with a week of free & fun activities for all ages. Visit www.qacl.ca for more details as they become available.

SEPTEMBER 22, 4:00-7:00PM

Get Park(ed) on World Car Free Day

(106 Street between 82 & 84 Avenue)

Learn about economical, healthy, eco-friendly ways to get around. Enjoy free fun family activities. Take a ride on the BIG Bike for Heart & Stroke, shake it up with Urban Zumba, face painting for the kids, spin the Wheel of Motion for prizes, and more! To find out more about Park(ed) Car Free Day contact Dot Laing at 780-944-0252 or dot.laing@edmonton.ca.

SEPTEMBER 22, 7:00-9:00PM

Tipton Park Conversation Café

Queen Alexandra Hall (10425 University Avenue)

Join us for a conversation about the future development of Tipton Park.

SEPTEMBER 27, 7:00PM

QACL General Meeting

Queen Alexandra Hall (10425 University Avenue)

All League members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

GET THE LATEST LEAGUE NEWS & UPDATES AT WWW.QACL.CA