



# THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

WINTER 2011

## SEASON'S GREETINGS



The Queen Alexandra Community League would like to extend our best wishes to one and all during the holiday season. In case you're looking for some free or low-cost entertainment this winter, consider some of these activities:

- **Visit the Reuse Centre**, located at 10004 103A Ave (in front of the CN Tower) to find an assortment of items for holiday crafts and decorating [www.qacl.ca/reuse](http://www.qacl.ca/reuse);
- Pack a thermos of hot chocolate and **take a walk through the legislature grounds** to view all the lights... if you've got small kids perhaps take fairy dust (bubble blowing gear works well) to scatter dust into the air and watch for sugar plum fairies;
- **Take your skates to City Hall** for some outdoor skating; and while you're there take a stroll through Churchill Square to view

the massive Christmas tree;

- **Participate in the Return of Magic** activities taking place in Old Strathcona, such as Saturday Santa sleigh rides, family photo contest, a holiday scavenger hunt, or just view the window displays. ([www.returnofthemagic.com](http://www.returnofthemagic.com));
- Get a cardio workout by heading out with your **snowshoes, cross-country skis, or toboggan** ([www.qacl.ca/snowshoe](http://www.qacl.ca/snowshoe) [www.qacl.ca/xcountry](http://www.qacl.ca/xcountry) [www.qacl.ca/toboggan](http://www.qacl.ca/toboggan));
- Let your ears tingle with seasonal excitement at the **tunes at McDougall United Church** ([www.mcdougallunited.com](http://www.mcdougallunited.com)); or
- **Stick close to home and do some of the great things available right in our own neighbourhood** (read the rest of this newsletter for all the details)!

## INSIDE

### PAGE 2

- Skating in Queen Alex
- Scona Pool Update

### PAGE 3

- Planning & Development
- Tipton Park Update
- League Notes

### PAGE 4

- Holiday Potluck
- Nurturing our Young People
- F.A.Q.

### PAGE 5

- Community Connections

### PAGE 6

- News from the City

## LEAGUE EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

JANUARY 30, 7:00PM

Monthly General Meeting  
Queen Alexandra Hall  
(Upstairs meeting room)

## 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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Doug Bailie

### 1st Vice President

Myles Kitagawa

### 2nd Vice President

Ken Bond

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Lisa Watson

### Treasurer

Russ Miyagawa

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### Neighbourhood Planning

John Thompson

### Membership

Judy Troyer

### Building and Grounds

Ken Bond

### Publicity

Julie Kusiek

### Program

Suzanne Lewis

### Sports

Sue Wasson

# SKATING IN QUEEN ALEX

Do you love the winter outdoors? So do others in Queen Alexandra, which is why members of **the community league have organized to build and maintain an outdoor ice rink this winter**. Well, almost... as soon as the temperatures consistently stay below zero!

Once operational, all league members are encouraged to get out their skates (make sure you've got your skate tag) and **give it a whirl between the hours of 8am and 10pm**. The rink is located east of Queen Alex Hall, just north of the Rollie Miles Athletic Field. Please be sure to read and follow the rink rules posted on the wall of the community league building.

Your skate tag also gives you **access to outdoor rinks at Community Leagues throughout the city**. The league is also

investigating options for a **learn-to-skate program for children** in the neighbourhood. Check out [www.qacl.ca](http://www.qacl.ca) over the coming weeks for details. For other information related to the outdoor community rink, email Ken Bond at [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca).

## FREE PUBLIC SKATING

Can't wait for the Queen Alex rink to open to get your skate on? Enjoy free public skating in December at the two arenas in our neighbourhood:

### Tipton

10828 80 Avenue  
Saturdays 3:45-4:45pm

### George S. Hughes South Side

10525 72 Avenue  
Saturdays 12:15-1:15pm

## SCONA POOL UPDATE

Friends of Scona Pool has been advocating to have Scona Pool renovated & upgraded. Nine community & high school members attended the November 23 Council budget hearing & a number of community members wrote to Council expressing their views on why an investment in Scona Pool's infrastructure makes good sense for the City. The final budget will be approved sometime in December.

As a member of the League, you receive 40 free swims to this local aquatic facility. For info on programs & hours of operation, visit [www.sconapool.com](http://www.sconapool.com). To join the Friends of Scona Pool email list, send a note to Julie at [friendsofsconapool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsconapool@gmail.com).

# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

It has been another busy month for planning and development in Queen Alexandra. First, the CB1 commercial rezoning application at the corner of 109th Street and 76th Avenue was approved by City Council. The proposed development will be a professional and medical office building with underground parking and is required to comply with the Pedestrian Commercial Shopping Street Overlay.

Meanwhile, The City of Edmonton's Sustainable Planning department is continuing work on the 109th Street Corridor Area Redevelopment Plan. QAACL and many of our neighbouring communities have had discussions with the City about this ARP.

Finally, the bylaw to alter the form of the property where the

South Scona parking lot sits has been put on hold. The bylaw would have allowed the lot to be reduced to half its current size, and the eastern half of the property would be sold to a private developer.

If you have any questions about these projects or any other planning and development issues, please contact John Thompsen at [planning@qacl.ca](mailto:planning@qacl.ca).

Want to find out more information about topics of interest for community leagues in the City? Visit the Edmonton Federation of Community League's website at [www.efcl.org](http://www.efcl.org). This winter's EFCL newsletter features information on a variety of topics, including events, city grants, multiplex recreation facilities, covered outdoor ice rinks, and surplus schools.

# TIPTON PARK UPDATE

Community members came together at the December 1st Conversation Cafe to review two design concepts for water at Tipton Park. Both concepts were excellent and responded to the community vision for a water space designed around relaxation, contemplation, and multi-generational use. After determining selection criteria and much discussion, one design concept was selected. Many thanks

to Diane Dunn for facilitating the community visioning process.

The Tipton Park Committee will continue to work with the City and water-feature suppliers to refine and finalize the design. We plan to present the final design to the community at an open house in January. To join the committee, contact Sheila at 780-428-8784 or [tiptonpark@qacl.ca](mailto:tiptonpark@qacl.ca).

# LEAGUE NOTES

## PLAYGROUPOUT VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Queen Alexandra Community League is looking for a playgroup coordinator to join forces with the already established Allendale Community League playgroup. If you are interested in taking on the Queen Alexandra playgroup coordinator role, or simply learning more about it, please email [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca) or phone Julie at 780-434-3787.

The Allendale playgroup meets on Fridays at the Allendale Community League hall (6330 105A street), from 10am to 12pm. It is a drop-in program with no fees and all Queen Alexandra children are welcome to attend with their parent or caregiver.

## PRINT NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER FOUND

The Publicity Committee is pleased to have a new volunteer join our team in the capacity of "print newsletter volunteer." Thanks Steve for agreeing to take on the role of printing newsletters and mailing for distribution.

# GINGERBREAD, CRAFTS, CAROLS & POTLUCK DINNER

Thank you to Suzanne and Kevin for organizing and hosting such a fantastic holiday get-together for the community at the hall on Sunday, December 4th. Every table in the hall was set up for use and all who came had a great time. The children had a wonderful time sampling edible decorations for their gingerbread houses, and even some of the adults had fun colouring the Christmas

crafts guided by the City of Edmonton staff. Thank you also to Ken and Steve for strumming a few good old carols on their guitars. Overall, the food was fantastic, and the opportunity to visit with other community members even better! Thank you to all who came and participated and to those who worked behind the scenes to make it all happen.

## NURTURING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Old Strathcona Youth Society, an information and referral service for high-risk and street involved youth aged 14-24, is hosting a festive turkey dinner for clients on December 17th. The Society is trying to fill 40-50 backpacks with small items such as socks, mitts, toques, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, Kleenex, pens, notebooks, guitar strings,

books, magazines, hygiene items, toiletries, treats, gift cards, etc. to give out as gifts to the youth. The Old Strathcona Youth Society relies heavily on donations to fill these backpacks and would appreciate your help in spreading the word or making donations. For more information, please contact Karen Drynan, Executive Director, at 780-496-5947.

## F.A.Q.

**Q: Hey! I'm not a member of the Community League. Why am I getting this newsletter?**

**A:** Queen Alexandra Community League puts out 10 newsletters per year. Six of these newsletters are for members only (October, November, January, February, April, and May). Four newsletters (September, December, March, and June) are distributed to all households within our boundaries, north to south from 82nd Avenue to 70th Avenue, and east to west from 104th Street to 109th Street. Our newsletters feature material of interest to both members and non-members.

**Q: How can I obtain more information about Queen Alexandra Community League and what the league does in our community?**

**A:** Go to our website at [www.qacl.ca](http://www.qacl.ca) for all kinds of information about the league including a downloadable membership form. You may also email [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca).

GET THE LATEST LEAGUE NEWS & UPDATES AT [WWW.QACL.CA](http://WWW.QACL.CA)

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Queen Alexandra Community League (QACL) features a different resident or topic of neighbourhood interest in every newsletter, with the aim of making connections with one another and with our surroundings. This month features Bob and his Christmas lights display.

Anyone who has walked by 75th Avenue and 108th Street between the first Sunday in December and the first weekend after New Year's will know what we're talking about. There, you will find a spectacular display of seasonal lights and cheer. Bob, the creator of this light show, has agreed to share with us a bit about what motivated him to do it, what keeps him interested, and how he goes about putting it on year after year.

It all started about eight years ago when his children began to get excited about Christmas festivities. In that year, and all previous years, Bob faithfully put up his one string of lights around the roof of his house and called it his contribution to seasonal decorating.

Then, on Boxing Day, Bob and his wife went to Canadian Tire to see what kind of deals could be had. Some deer caught their eye. Those

are the deer you can now find jumping over his garage every winter. They also put Bob at about 20,000 lights.

After that, the momentum just caught. Next was Cinderella land, complete with a pumpkin coach and characters. Light count: about 42,000. Year after year, he moved up and up, from 53,000 to 75,000 to 80,000. This year, he expects to be around the 90,000 mark with the addition of a new tunnel made out of scaffolding. Perhaps that is one of the reasons Bob often begins creating his seasonal display as early as July!

Now, what about the environmental perspective, you ask? Although all the features came with regular bulbs, Bob is carefully replacing them as needed with new LED lights.

You may also wonder how in the world he can plug in so many different sets of lights. As with many of the 1950s era homes in our neighbourhood, Bob's did not initially have an exterior plug on the house. The original owner had drilled a hole through the window frame and plugged an extension cord into the kitchen outlet. Yikes!

To fix that problem and accommodate his light display, Bob

solicited the help of someone who used to do the lights in Hawrelak Park. He is now outfitted with a superboard including six circuits, and everything on a timer. It truly is a show worth coming to see.

Bob says passers-by often comment on what he has changed from last year and offer their thoughts on the display. Bob also tries to tell a story for each of his "lands." He says, "It's not just about lights, there's imagination and a story for each scene!"

Perhaps that's what attracts the tour buses each year, along with the photography group that peers with their telescopic lenses through the fence and those people who drive half-way across the city just to see the display...and then share with Bob stories of all the other great light displays they've seen around Edmonton. It seems to have something for the very young and for the young at heart.

So, if you have a moment on a quiet winter evening, take a walk to 75th Avenue and 108th Street. Relax, let your imagination wander, and enjoy the display. After all, it all started with just one string of lights and a hole through the kitchen window frame.

**GET THE LATEST LEAGUE NEWS & UPDATES AT [WWW.QACL.CA](http://WWW.QACL.CA)**

# NEWS FROM THE CITY

## WHAT TO EXPECT ON EDMONTON STREETS THIS WINTER

The City of Edmonton is committed to keeping streets in good winter driving condition throughout the snow season, and crews work around the clock to achieve that goal. A number of changes have been implemented this winter.

A seasonal parking ban will affect residential bus routes. The City of Edmonton will call a ban with a minimum of eight hours notice. At that time, vehicles must be moved from those routes with the 'Seasonal Parking Ban' signs; those not moved after the eight hours will be tagged and towed.

Once priority routes are plowed, crews will move into residential areas to blade to a 5 cm snow pack. Even if there is another snow event that requires additional work on priority routes, crews will NOT be removed from residential areas until the blading cycle has been finished. If the snow pack on residential streets cannot be maintained at 5 cm, crews will plow down to bare pavement where required.

Windrows will be kept to a minimum on residential streets and will not be removed; every effort will be made to keep them at a maximum height of 30 cm in front of driveways. If crews have to plow down to bare pavement, windrows will be higher and there may be

some delay before skid steers are able to clear driveways.

Windrows will be removed on a regular basis from school drop off zones, seniors' centres and Edmonton Transit bus stops.

You can find out when the City calls a bus route parking ban in several ways. Media announcements will be made, information will be on the City of Edmonton website, and postings will be made via the City of Edmonton's Facebook page and Twitter account. You can also sign up for free, confidential email notification by visiting [www.edmonton.ca/winterroads](http://www.edmonton.ca/winterroads) and clicking on 'Subscribe to Roadway Alerts.'

And remember... all property owners must clear snow and ice from city sidewalks adjacent to their property within 48 hours of a snowfall. QACL is home to many seniors and others who may have difficulty keeping their walks clear. If you know of someone who needs help, please consider offering your services. Sand is available from the green bin in front of the QACL hall— remember to bring a container. If someone helps you with snow clearing, you can nominate them as a Snow Angel. Visit the following link for more information on the Snow Angel program: [www.qacl.ca/angels](http://www.qacl.ca/angels).

## PROBLEM PROPERTIES

Each of us plays a part in making Queen Alexandra a vibrant, safe, & friendly neighbourhood. As engaged residents, the City looks to us to make city staff aware of problem properties. Visit [www.qacl.ca/problem](http://www.qacl.ca/problem) for more information on how to report problem properties.

### DERELICT BUILDINGS

A derelict building is a building which is vacant and in a state of disrepair. If you are aware of a derelict building or if you notice activity around a vacant house, call Bylaw Enforcement at 780-496-3100.

### OCCUPIED PROPERTIES

Owners must maintain home and business conditions, including fixing buildings, clearing snow, cutting grass, weeds, and trees, removing wrecked vehicles, and cleaning up garbage. If you have concerns with a property, contact Bylaw Enforcement at 780-496-3100.

### QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITY

Examples of disruptive or questionable activity include noise, drug dealing, & prostitution. For these types of concerns, call the EPS at 780-423-4567; to report a suspected drug house call 780-426-8229.