



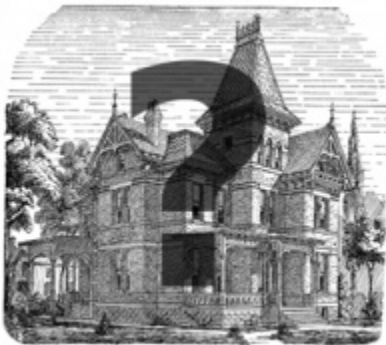
THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

WINTER 2012

WHO'S YOUR HOUSE?

By Shirley Lowe, City of Edmonton Historian Laureate



The community that we know as Queen Alexandra was a central part of the settlement of South Edmonton (1891). It was the terminus for the Calgary and Edmonton Railway, a Canadian Pacific Railway line that brought the first train into the Edmonton area. As a result of the influx of homesteaders attracted by free land, the settlement grew into the Town of Strathcona (1899), the City of Strathcona (1907) and finally became part of Edmonton (1912). Early settlers built homes on a traditional grid radiating from the centre of the community, the intersection of Whyte (82) Avenue and Main (104) St.

Homes in Edmonton were built in the style of their day using the materials that were most prevalent and most popular. If unaltered, it is easy to

tell the vintage of your home. Housing materials were very scarce at the end of the nineteenth century and well into the first decade of the twentieth century. The first scarcity was a matter of availability. The area had not built lumber mills and brickyards. In the early 1900s, lumberyards and several brickyards appeared and production was intense. Demand outstripped supply until WWI stopped construction and the world went into recession.

The 1910-1912 boom tripled the population of the Edmonton area and was responsible for most of the brick buildings. A popular housing style of that time was the American four square home, a two or two and a half storey wooden or brick home with front and back porches. It was a cleaner style than the turrets and embellishments of the Victorian era.

Times of intense house building include the mid- to late-1920s, the first post WWII houses and the raised bungalows of the 1950s. All subsequent decades have their distinct style, too. Confusion may arise when there have been alterations.

Our homes are some of our
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LEAGUE EVENTS

JANUARY 7-8

Casino Fundraiser

*Century Casino Edmonton
(13103 Fort Road)*

JANUARY 29, 7PM

Monthly General Meeting
Queen Alexandra Hall

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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LOW DENSITY ZONE WORKSHOPS

From EFCL.org

Attend a Workshop to help you prepare a well thought out letter to City Council before they meet to consider the Low Density Zone changes on January 28, 2013.

RSVP to Planner@efcl.org, or 780-437-2913. Please specify the workshop date, your name and your League.

In the meantime, if you want to take part in an e-discussion of potential changes to zoning regulations in mature neighbourhoods, visit the forum.planninganddev.info. Join FLICKR to add your photos and comments of the inspiring, the good, bad and ugly infill developments at www.flickr.com/groups/yeginfill.

BACKGROUND

- Read our summary of the zoning & overlay changes that will radically

LOCATIONS

- Jan 3, Pleasantview Community Hall (10860 57 Ave)
- Jan 14, Spruce Avenue Community Centre (10240 115 Ave)

AGENDA

- 6:30-7:00pm: City displays & ask questions of city planners
- 7:00-9:30pm: Group discussions about the impact of proposed changes & potential alternatives

affect what can or cannot be built in most City neighbourhoods at <http://qacl.ca/Zk3>

- Read planner Brian Kropf's Shedding the Light on a Shady Proposal: Low Density Residential Zones and the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay - Exposing the Secrets at <http://qacl.ca/ZkU>

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS

Membership to Queen Alexandra Community League is worth it.

- Get connected (pot lucks, ping pong nights, playgroup).
- Get fit (free swims, free skating).
- Get deals (hall rental, City of Edmonton recreation facilities, Northern Lights Folk Club).

- Get in the know (planning & development, events, community news).

- Get creative (work on a project of interest with friends).

Go to www.qacl.ca to download our membership form or buy your membership online at www.efcl.org.

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

COMMUNITY LEAGUE NOTES

CHRISTMAS PARTY WAS MERRY, MERRY, MERRY!



Thank you to the Bonds and everyone else who helped pull together the fantastic Christmas Party and Potluck. We decorated cookies. We made crafts. We will feed the birds with our peanut butter pinecones. We ate. We visited. We sang (thanks Ken, Mike, and Steve for the Christmas tunes!). What a great kick-off to the holiday season. All the best to you and your family for a relaxing, enjoyable, and safe winter break. We'll see you around the neighbourhood.

SKATING RINK IS OPEN!

The skating rink is now open. League members are welcome to get out their skates and go for a spin between the hours of 8am and 10pm. The rink is located east of the Queen Alex Hall. Please be sure to read and follow the rink rules posted on the wall of the Hall. If you have a spare moment this winter to help with shoveling or flooding, please contact Ken Bond at 780-432-0807 or rink@qacl.ca.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

The QACL playgroup is up and running on Tuesday mornings, from 9:30-11:30am at the Hall. This is a registered program and all families take a turn bringing a snack. The cost is \$20 for the entire year, per family. You must be a League member to join.

Not sure if you want to join the club? Drop by and try us out. There will be coffee, tea, snacks, toys, and comfy couches to visit on. Here are some top reasons our kids' favourite day of the week is Tuesday:

- They get to run, run, and run some more around the hall. This is also a reason why the playgroup is a favourite of moms, too.
- They get to see their "best" friends.
- There are snacks.
- The toys are different than at home.
- Dec 18 is **cookie decorating day!**
- The babies also seem to like checking out each other's skills (drooling, sitting, crawling).

We will also be trying a toddler/preschooler dance class from 10:00-10:20 during playgroup hours beginning in January. Participation is optional for playgroup attendees, and it is free. No special clothing is required, just something comfortable the kids can move in. The class will be taught by Julie Kusiek, who spent a couple of decades in the dance studio and on stage, including two years as a part-time dance instructor. The focus of the playgroup dance class will be

on having fun, moving to various types of music, and learning rhythm.

All that for only \$20 and a turn at bringing snack? What a steal. Email playgroup@qacl.ca if you want further information..

CASINO WORKERS NEEDED

Ever wonder how the League is able to put on such stellar free events while keeping our membership fees so low? That is because we participate in one fundraiser every two years – working a casino. Our next casino takes place January 7-8 at Century Casino Edmonton (13103 Fort Road).

Your neighbours and friends need your help. Heck, it can even be (kind of) fun. Casino funds pay for league needs such as:

- Hall maintenance & renovations;
- Hall furniture & rec equipment;
- Park & playground development at Queen Alexandra & Tipton Park;
- Newsletter printing & distribution;
- And much, much more!

Volunteer positions and shifts are available during the day or the evening. If you can help or for more info, contact Ann Brown at casino@qacl.ca. Car pools will be arranged if you need a ride to/from the Casino. If you're shy because you've never worked a casino before, a veteran will be happy to show you the ropes! Volunteers do not have to be members of League to help.

SHARING THE QUEEN ALEX STORY

By Kim Sanderson

As part of the League's focus on the history of our area, here is a closer look at the story of the league – some of the interesting, quirky, fun and important things that have happened in our nearly 50 years. We'd like to flesh this out, add some photos and maybe turn this into an online interactive retrospective.

We know there is a lot more to be said! For example, what do you remember about the end-of-year soccer potlucks back in the 80s and 90s? Were you one of the bingo stalwarts in the days before casino fundraising? Maybe you taught or took a great course with some memorable moments. What can you tell us about big parties at the hall? Any famous people who may have visited? Or funny, sad or happy stories?

We're looking for help from those of you who are sure to have some memories of the goings-on in our neighbourhood over the years. If you have photos, stories, newspaper clippings, or anecdotes to share, please email history@qacl.ca.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF QACL

1962

QACL gets a charter from the EFCL. Old Strathcona communities recognize the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of the cities of Strathcona and Edmonton.

1963

Volunteers build an outdoor rink on the site of the current hall

1966

The league incorporates as a non-profit society

1968

The first hall is in place

1974

QACL objects to the City's proposed expropriation of property bounded by 105A St on the west and what is now Rollie Miles park & Strathcona High School on the east, between 70 & 76 Avenue. The plan was to build a large recreational sports complex. Fortunately for the many residents who live in & love that little corner of QA, the city changed its mind, & the houses were not demolished.

1980

The first Neighbourhood Planning Group was established in October.

1981

The League publishes a 1981 calendar with illustrations of some of the historic landmarks in the community.

1984

The hall is severely damaged in a fire

1986

Internal strife for the league and one



outcome is a new set of bylaws, which are, for the most part, still in use today.

1989-1990

QA along with Strathcona CL responds to the plans to develop the 102/103 Street corridor, with substantial residential development along the east side of what is now Gateway Blvd. north of Whyte Ave, with a high-rise where End of Steel Park is now. We had a representative on the committee that was formed to consider other options, and in the end, the space was not developed (for now). QACL subsequently became a founding member of the Old Strathcona Area Community Council (OSACC), which was formed around this time.

1990

The City announces plans to close Scona Pool. QA and other nearby communities rally to encourage more use of the pool, and it is spared.

1994

QACL raises money and devotes considerable effort to upgrade the playground at 73 Avenue and 107 Street

1995

Upstairs meeting room undergoes first major renovation

1996

The first meeting of the new Central Area Council of Community Leagues (CACCL) is held in our hall. The nucleus was a group of mature neighbourhoods in the north part of what was then Ward 5. Previously we had been part of the Southwest Area Council and it became clear that the interests of the two areas were quite different and often counter to each other. The CACCL has expanded and now includes communities from Windsor Park to Hazeldean, and from Garneau to Empire Park. It's a great forum for communities to share concerns, collaborate on issues like transportation, the 109 Street plan, and many others.

1996

QUACKs— short for Queen Alexandra Community Knowledge and Skills Sharing— is hatched.



The original intent was to create a directory of community goods and services that could be bartered, bought or sold. In the end, we ended up doing monthly potlucks and the motto became Dinner and a Few Good Laughs. QUACKs continued for about 6 years, and organized several annual Cleaning and Greening events at the hall. These events included a plant exchange, a dumpster, recycling opportunities, instruction on building a composter, and many other activities.

1997

The City dismantles the original playground equipment at Tipton Park, including the iconic 12-foot slides.



1998

QACL organizes and delivers a set of five community-building courses related to planning, park redevelopment, community advocacy, making presentations before City Council, and other skills. This was precipitated by, among other things, a rezoning decision that allowed the destruction of three houses on 81 Avenue to expand the parking lot for a Whyte Avenue car dealership.

2000

The new mural at Tipton Park is celebrated with Picnic in the Park on Canada Day.

Major renovations, including the demolition of the original buildings that served the long-ago horse racing track, occur at what is now Rollie Miles Park in preparation for the World Track and Field championships in 2001.

2000-2003

Communities along 106 Street explore traffic calming options. Measures are installed on a trial basis, and later removed due to complaints from drivers. Bulbing at some crosswalks is put in place instead.

2001 -2004

Volunteers plant sweet peas along the

fences of Mount Carmel and Queen Alexandra school on 106 Street, available for the picking!

2008

Mature Neighbourhood Action Group is formed in response to issues related to development in mature neighbourhoods; QA is a member. Later, the EFCL forms a planning committee where some of the MNAG issues are discussed.

2009-2011

Scona Pool is again threatened with closure. Friends of Scona Pool is born as a committee of CACCL with special membership from Strathcona High School and local aquatic groups. Fundraising, community action projects, and substantial increases in attendance spare the pool once again.



2010

New spray park replaces the wading pool at park at 73 Ave and 107 Street. The League installs the fabulous sign near the hall to share news and upcoming events.

2011

Bike lanes are installed along 106 Street and 76 Avenue. Work begins on rehabilitation of Tipton Park, including the water features.

2012

Queen Alex establishes a playgroup for parents and tots.

INCREASING COMMUNITY SAFETY ONE NEIGHBOUR AT A TIME

By Julie Kusiek

Back in March 2012, REACH Edmonton (Council for Safe Communities) held a town hall meeting at Queen Alexandra Hall to talk about community safety. 16 people attended, plus eight resource personnel.

Participants of the evening were asked on average, out of 10, how safe they feel in the city and in their community. With 15 responses, the average rating was 7.4 for the city, and 7.7 for their community.

Most people agreed that a strong sense of community, where people know their neighbours, is essential to creating a safe environment. The point was made that Queen Alexandra has a strong community, with many well organized community events such as pot lucks and community dances – a mix of social activities and recreation events.

Participants agreed that encouraging people to get out and about in the neighbourhood – creating a street presence – is important to increasing community safety. Community leagues play a crucial role in this. So, how can you plug in?

- Get a league membership if you don't already have one.
- Come to league organized events. Introduce yourself to the people there. Say "hi!"
- Volunteer for an existing committee

or create your own program or group to be run through the league.

By finding a project to work on with your neighbours, you create the excuse for ongoing dialogue...and maybe even a future friendship or simple comfortable acquaintance.

- Use your swim pass, local parks (summer), & skating rink (winter) – and walk to get there! The more cross-cutting paths you have with the other locals, the safer you'll feel. Especially if you've met them before and exchanged names.
- If you see something suspicious, **tell people about it.** Call the police non-emergency complaint line (780-423-4567). Tell your neighbours. Email news@qacl.ca and we'll fan it out to the League.

There are other ways to increase your safety outside of the community league as well:

- Knock on the door of your neighbours on the right, on the left and across the street. Say, "Hi, I'm [your first name]. I live next door to you. I just thought I'd come over and introduce myself." Get their first name, too. If you get a good vibe at your first introduction, exchange phone numbers or email addresses. If you can get hold of your neighbour in a crunch, that'll also help you to feel safer.
- Walk your dog (remember to pick up after it).

- Keep your trees and shrubs trimmed, and fences to a proper height. You want to be able to see what is happening on the street.
- Carry a whistle with you. It's loud, it's shrill, it's easy to carry, and it's unusual (yells or screams may be ignored). Parents, please make sure your kids know the whistle is for emergency use only and *never* let them carry it around as a toy.
- Visit www.qacl.ca for a full list of tips from Edmonton Police Service on reducing your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

Thank you to Andy from REACH Edmonton for providing information on the March 2012 open house and EPS safety tip sheet.

SCONA POOL

SWIM LESSONS SURVEY

At the end of October, RiverCity Recreation Inc. did a survey to ask how swimmers felt about the lessons. The survey included questions about current fees, times, instructors, format and if they would recommend Scona Pool to their friends and family. Although some of the results were inconclusive it was clear that 100% of people surveyed advised that they would recommend Scona Pool for lessons.

In fact, several commented that after trying lessons at other pools they came back to Scona because of the great level of service and excellent

instructors. The survey asked about possible changes to how lessons are run at Scona Pool, including adding more days to the programming and changing the current duration of lessons from ten weeks to eight. As a result of the responses gathered, RiverCity Rec will be trying out a few of these changes. Stay tuned for more options for lessons in the near future.

In the summer, a trial was done for an Adult Stroke Improvement class. What a success! Anyone who has taken the class has loved it and tThis will now have a permanent place in Scona Pool's lesson plans. Anyone looking to improve their swimming skills is invited to come for a weekly 30-minute lesson and get advice from Scona's knowledgeable instructors. This course is for all levels.

PROGRAMMING

Starting January 9, 2013, Scona Pool will be offering Parent & Tot classes to all moms and dads who want to get in some weekly water fun for themselves and their little ones. The class is recommended for ages four months and up.

The Winter lesson session begins January 9; call 780-496-8756 to register.

For pool hours during the holidays, go to www.sconapool.com.

NEWS FROM THE CITY

WINTER FUN FOR KIDS

Snow shacks are the winter equivalent of the summer green shacks. This free drop-in program for children aged 6-12 offers a variety of fun outdoor activities including games, snowshoeing, snow-fort building, sledding and snow painting. Come dressed for the weather and be ready for winter fun! Children under the age of six are welcome to participate, but must be supervised by their parent or guardian at all times. The program may be cancelled or adjusted in the case of extreme weather.

Allendale community league is hosting a snow shack from January 2-4 from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. You can find the Allendale snow shack at 6330 105A Street. On February 3, 10, and 17, Belgravia will also have a snow shack available. You can find that snow shack at 11605 74 Avenue.

THE STORY OF HOLIDAY WASTE

The holiday season is one of the most festive times of the year, creating opportunities for more shopping, decorating, gift-giving, and of course unwrapping. The sad thing is that much of the seasonal gift wrap, decorations, and packaging that is part of the holiday season are not recyclable in the City's blue bag and blue bin recycling program.

Remember to 'Know Before You

Throw' this holiday season and keep the following items out of your household's blue bag or apartment's blue bin:

- Tree ornaments
- Styrofoam
- Christmas tree stands
- Plastic lawn decorations (including inflatable displays)
- Metallic gift wrap
- Christmas lights

On the bright side, the City makes it easy to reduce your holiday waste by recycling natural Christmas trees. For residents with curbside waste collection, when the holiday season is over, you can put your tree out with your regular garbage and recycling, and the city will collect it. Watch for media updates announcing dates and directives for this year's Christmas tree roundup.

If you live in an apartment or townhouse with a recycling and/or garbage bin, you must take your tree to an Eco Station or Recycling depot. Trees placed beside your garbage or recycling bin will not be collected. All collected trees go to the Edmonton Waste Management Centre for composting.

For Eco Station and Recycling Depot locations, and for the rest of your seasonal and year round waste "what goes where?" questions, visit www.edmonton.ca/recycling for a comprehensive list of different types of material and how to properly dispose of them.

WHO'S YOUR HOUSE?

...continued from page 1

biggest investments. It is natural that we would like to know about the building where we house ourselves and our family. Getting to know your house takes detective work but it can be fun and informative.

1. ASK A NEIGHBOUR OR A FAMILY MEMBER

People who have lived in a community for a long time may be able to inform you on the history of your house. The approximate age, the people who lived in the house and even alterations to the original house may be part of someone's memory. If the house had been in the family for a number of years, the stories are even richer.

2. CHECK WITH LAND TITLES

www.servicealberta.ca/LandTitles.cfm

This is where you get a document with the description and legal history of your home, the building permits and former owners.

3. GO TO THE CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES

The City of Edmonton Archives (COEA) is located at 10440 108 Avenue. This place has a plan for your research project. All it costs is your time. Some helpful resources are:

CITY OF EDMONTON PERMITS

The archives will have permits for

HINT FROM THE ARCHIVES:

"The COEA has organized its plan holdings by modern address, so you will not find references to buildings by their old (pre-1914) street names. You will need to provide your lot, block and neighbourhood (district) name, (not the "Plan" number provided in a legal description). This information can be found on your title or taxation documents. You need a street and avenue, not a Township, Range, etc. as these have no translation to the records of City addresses."

buildings built after amalgamation (1912). The City of Strathcona records vanished with annexation.

FIRE MAPS & AERIAL PHOTOS

Fire maps will tell you if there was a structure on your lot in 1912-13 and 1953-64.

HENDERSON'S DIRECTORY

Henderson's Directories were published from the late 1900s to 1987 in Edmonton. Early copies may not be available. The books were published annually and contained business and residential listings that included the people who lived in the house and the occupation of the primary tenant. You may find some significant community people have lived in your home. This may be a way of identifying former residents for more information.

Henderson's Directories are not 100% accurate. Check more than one year. Also, to find the date that your home first appears, start with an approximate date and work forward or backward until you find the first

reference.

Bring your pertinent information and a reference archivist will help you get started.

4. BRUCE PEEL PRAIRIE HISTORY WEBSITE

peel.library.ualberta.ca

Digital versions of Henderson's (1908-1953) are available online— follow the link to "Featured Collections". Choose Edmonton and look for Strathcona at the back. Before 1914, the addresses use the old street names.

Enjoy! Have you researched your home or plan to research your home? Let the QAHL history committee know and we'll help you share your home's story in an upcoming newsletter. Email us at history@qacl.ca.

Shirley Lowe is the City of Edmonton's Historian Laureate, and a Queen Alexandra resident & League member.

