



THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

OCTOBER 2013



Thanks to everyone who came out to Community League Day at Scona Pool on September 21 to kick off the League's membership drive.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Do you enjoy walking? Do you like to get out in the neighborhood and see all the beautiful yards and houses? Would you like to volunteer in the community but only have a little time to give? The League might have just the right position for you. We are looking for volunteers to help deliver newsletters to the neighborhood. The newsletter is delivered to the community four times per year, in June, September, December, & April. For more info or to volunteer, contact Crystal at news@qacl.ca or 780-288-3057.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Queen Alexandra Community League is seeking volunteers to serve on the League's currently dormant Social Committee. The Social Committee is tasked with planning, organizing and running social events for the members of the League. Past activities have included potluck dinners, Christmas parties, pub nights, and other special events. If you like planning parties, come out and help us throw some fun events this year. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Russ at info@qacl.ca.

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LEAGUE EVENTS

TUESDAYS, 9:30-11:30AM

QACL Playgroup

Queen Alexandra Hall

OCTOBER 29, 7PM

Monthly General Meeting

Queen Alexandra Hall

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

EXECUTIVE

President

Myles Kitagawa

1st Vice President

John Thompsen

2nd Vice President

Micheal Guirguis

Secretary

Ken Bond

Treasurer

vacant

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Neighbourhood Planning

Micheal Guirguis

Membership

vacant

Building and Grounds

vacant

Programs

Mika Benjamin

Publicity

Crystal Benoit

Sports

Shelia Campbell

WANTED: HALL MANAGER

Do you have flexible days and are looking for some additional income? Maybe you are retired or semi-retired, work from home, or are an at-home care-giver or parent. The Queen Alexandra Community League is looking a reliable individual to manage use of the community hall located at 10425 University Avenue, just north of Strathcona High School.

Main responsibilities include:

1. Administer hall rentals by:
 - Responding or re-directing email inquiries
 - Distributing rental contracts and policy documents
 - Maintaining on-line booking schedule
 - Orienting renters to proper hall use
 - Payment handling
 - Inspecting the hall after each rental
2. Maintaining the interior and exterior hall building and grounds.
3. Proposing an annual budget to the

Board for hall needs

4. Recommending contracts to the board as necessary for hall/grounds maintenance tasks and hall cleaning
5. Reporting to the board on a monthly basis regarding hall updates/needs

You will need to be:

- Organized and comfortable using basic computer software programs
- Comfortable applying policies, managing forms and payments, and dealing with people
- Available to check the hall in between all hall rentals, including some evening and weekend hours

Compensation is negotiable. Please contact Myles Kitagawa at president@qacl.ca to request a detailed services description to guide your proposal preparation. Proposals will be accepted until October 31.

MAKE A SPLASH AT SCONA POOL

Now that you've got your QACL membership for 2013-2014, why not start using up some of those free swims? Check out Scona Pool's public swimming schedule at www.sconapool.com. This fall Scona Pool is also running a drop-in parent-tot aquasize class, which is a great program for parents and their little swimmers. What a splash!

PUBLIC SWIM SCHEDULE*

EARLY BIRD SWIM

- Mon-Fri 6:30-9:00am

AFTERNOON SWIM

- Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:00pm

FAMILY SWIM

- Wed 6:30-8:30pm
- Fri 6:00-8:00pm
- Sat/Sun 1:00-5:00pm

*Subject to change

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2013

By Julie Kusiek

Edmonton's municipal election is taking place on October 21, 2013. No, don't roll your eyes; it is exciting. There is going to be massive change in our city's political leadership:

- There will be a new mayor
- At least 6 of our 12 councillors will be new faces
- 119 people are running for elected office – the most since 1986!

That's a lot of turnover. If there is an election to vote in, it's this one.

We can do better than the 33.4% city-wide voter turnout of 2010. We can for sure do better than the 21.8% voter turnout at our neighbourhood's voting subdivision. You don't have to be physically mobile to vote - you can use mail-in ballots. You don't have to be in town on Election Day - you can use advance voting. You don't even really have to like politics or know a lot about current issues to vote. You just need to get informed and do it. After all, these are going to be the people making all kinds of decisions that affect our daily lives for the next four years. That's longer than your years spent in high school!

Be part of shaping the city you live in... whoever you are. VOTE on October 21.

WHO'S WHO?

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

- Kristine Acielo
(kristineaciolorunning4mayor@yahoo.ca)
- Kerry Diotte (www.kerrydiotte.com)
- Don Iveson (www.doniveson.com)
- Karen Leibovici
(www.karenformayor.com)
- Joshua Semotiuk
(joshsemotiuk@gmail.com)
- Gordon Ward
(www.gordonformayor.ca)

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILLOR – WARD 8

- Brian Deacon
(brian.a.deacon@gmail.com)
- Ben Henderson
(www.benhenderson.net)
- Nicholas Reading (no contact information available)
- Kris Szczepanski (no contact information available)
- Heather Workman
(www.heatherworkman.ca)

CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE – WARD F

- Michael Janz (www.michaeljanz.ca)
- Noah Shillington
(noah.shillington@gmail.com)

CANDIDATES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD – WARD 75

- John Acheson (achesonj@telus.net)
- Andrea Klotz
(www.andreaklotz.com)

WHICH ONE TO CHOOSE?

Now, you may ask, “how will I decide which candidate to vote for?” While you are pondering, check out some of these really great resources:

1. Candidate forums (trust me they're awesome, get out your bowl of popcorn and curl up in front of your computer screen!). You can find archived City-sponsored forums at <http://edmonton.ca/election> (click on "Candidate Fooms" on the left-hand side).
2. The newspaper, online or on paper, old articles and new.
3. Google searches for “Edmonton election” or “mayor's race Edmonton” or “Ward 8 Edmonton election” or “school board trustee Edmonton election” or use a candidate's name to get really good articles.
4. Phone, email, or otherwise get in touch with candidates about your questions
5. Talk to your friends, neighbours and work colleagues.

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

THE MCKERNAN LAKE LINE

By Colin Hatcher (reprinted courtesy of the Trip Sheet)

The streetcar line to McKernan Lake opened for public passenger service on November 9, 1913. The track ran south from Whyte Avenue on 104 Street & around the double track right hand branch-off into 76 Avenue, then west along 76th Avenue to 106 Street where the double track in pavement ended. It is not known if the wire was extended south of the 76 Avenue intersection on 104 Street to University Avenue. The work cars drew power as the crews erected the line, technically providing the first streetcar operation on the new line. A young resident along that portion of the line Jim Coutts recalls seeing the abandoned roadbed cross from one side of the avenue to the other at several locations.

The City of Strathcona street & avenue designations were still in common use in 1913 even though the formal amalgamation of Edmonton & Strathcona had taken place the year before. The line was built as a development line. Its construction & operation was outlined in the Edmonton & Strathcona Amalgamation Agreement. For the residents along the line, that was an “iron-clad” agreement to provide the service regardless of the cost. The short one-block stub on 104 Street from 76 Avenue to University Avenue was like the grand union at 109 Street & Jasper Avenue.

The double track in pavement on the 102 Avenue line never did occur. It



Double-ended Edmonton 17 carrying a Green and White sign is standing on 104 Street just south of Whyte Avenue having just arrived from the McKernan Lake Line.

was to tie into a line intended to support a belt line service that would return from 63 Avenue, north to Whyte Avenue & go back downtown via the High Level Bridge. It also was intended to accommodate a belt line service which would run south on 104 Street as far as the Speedway, a sub-division along the north side of present-day 51 Avenue immediately east of the CPR tracks, & return north to Whyte Avenue via a proposed line on 97 Street East & return downtown via 99 Street East & the Low Level Bridge.

Through Low Level Bridge Route 2, cars carrying Red signs provided the first services on the line. These cars operated from the McKernan Lake terminus at 116 Street on 76 Avenue east. They returned to McKernan Lake via the Low Level Bridge providing 15-minute service. Special cars using the High Level Bridge provided additional special event service to the lake. In that first winter, skating at the lake was a highly

attractive event.

On New Year's Eve in 1913 a gala celebration featuring a band & fireworks took place at the lake. The Edmonton Radial Railway capitalized on the recreational potential of the line in order to generate revenue. Extensive skating & toboggan slide facilities were built at the lake. It is known that single-end cars provided service on the line in its early days but the location of a loop or turning wye has not been confirmed. Over the years the lake level changed & on more than one occasion the lake was deliberately drained. The line's recreational potential apparently varied considerably over its lifetime.

A major alteration of Edmonton Radial Railway streetcar routes took place on February 8, 1914. Route 6 cars carrying Blue & Red signs served McKernan Lake from Whyte Avenue & 104 Street every half hour. On September 20, 1915 through service on the McKernan Lake line returned

when it became part of Route 3 but still carried Blue & Red signs lettered 111 Avenue via 95 Street to McKernan's Lake. References of the day referred to the route & the lake as McKernan's Lake. The cars operated via the High Level Bridge every forty minutes. In July 1916 McKernan Lake car frequency was reduced but the route remained unchanged.

On October 17, 1917 a one-man car service was introduced to the route.

It is possible that the thirty-minute evening service accommodated those accessing the recreational skating & toboggan slide services at the lake. In 1920 a schedule change saw the 76 Avenue car leave 104 Street & 82 Avenue at 7:00 & every half hour following until 10:00 then resume the half hourly service at 12 noon & continue through until 23:00.

On Sundays only four trips were made from Jasper Avenue & 101 Street. In consultation with the Calgary Trail Community League at a meeting in Allendale School in September 1921 a schedule for the McKernan Lake car was set out where the car would leave Whyte Avenue every hour on the hour & 24 minutes past the hour with both trips going through to the end of the line at 76 Avenue & 116 Street. A third trip departed from Whyte Avenue & 104 Street at 48 minutes past the hour going only as far as 109 Street. That allowed for an increased frequency of service over a significant portion of the line. It is not known how long this schedule remained in place but it did set a precedent by having some trips turn back before reaching the end of



Edmonton 17 westbound on 76 Avenue coming up the grade between 111 & 112 Streets

the line. The early morning schedule was very tight; e.g., the 6:27 car from Whyte Avenue had six minutes to get to 109 Street where the motorman would change ends, load passengers, collect fares, make change, sell tickets, issue transfers & make the 6:33 departure for its return trip to Whyte Avenue. One car & its motorman would have to hustle to keep that schedule. The remaining early morning car departure times were similarly tight. One observer remarked to this writer that she grew up near the line & they would have to run to catch the car because it wouldn't wait for them!

Some notable destinations along the line include Queen Alexandra School, which dates back to about 1906, & Mount Carmel School, which dates back to 1925. Their size & presence indicates the development that was taking in the area bordering the streetcar line. The presence of buildings housing businesses on the south side of 76 Avenue in the vicinity of 106 Street along with some older large homes in that area doubtless coincides with the streetcar rocketing past. Generally speaking there were few build-

ings of any kind along 76 Avenue west of 106 Street during the streetcar era. Many Edmontonians used the car to travel to Whitemud Park in the river valley. It was a favorite destination for school picnics. They would walk from the end of the line at 116 Street to the river valley & then down to the park that is located adjacent to today's Fort Edmonton Park. John Guay, a long retired streetcar mechanic, tells us that the car assigned to McKernan Lake line was commonly referred to as the Whitemud car. Street Railway employees had a soccer team that played games at the field just south of University Avenue & 105 Street. They would take a car from the barns, pick up members of the team along the way & park it on the south track on 76 Avenue & use it as a change room. The south track on 76 Avenue & the east track on 104 Street generally were not used by regular service cars.

The last trip on the line occurred on Saturday August 9, 1947. With that final trip a widely known & storied streetcar service in Edmonton passed into history.

ELECTION

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LET'S DO IT!

You are now an educated citizen. You know who is running for election in your area. You may have even finished that bowl of popcorn while watching a forum (it was fun, wasn't it?). You know that the election is going to take place on October 21. You have also put in some thought as to who you think should be voted into office. Now you just need to figure out how to cast your ballot!

MAKE SURE YOU'RE ELIGIBLE

Go to <http://edmonton.ca/election> and click on "Eligibility" if you are unsure of your eligibility to vote in this election.

WHERE TO VOTE

The City of Edmonton has a great little tool you can use to find out where to vote. Go to <http://edmonton.ca/election> and click on "Where to Vote" under Online Tools on the right-hand side. Type in your address. It will tell you the location you are to go. For example, our household is assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School (10524 – 76 Avenue), anytime between 9 am and 8 pm.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

ID requirements have changed for the 2013 Edmonton election. In order to vote, you must present one piece of authorized identification that establishes both your name and current residential address. For example, you cannot use your passport, Alberta

health care card, student or work ID. You can use an Alberta's driver's license or ID card, personal cheque or bank/credit statement, a utility bill. A list of authorized identification is at <http://edmonton.ca/election>.

OTHER WAYS TO VOTE

Advance voting is available from October 8-12 and October 15-19, 2013 at City Hall and in the four quadrants of the city. For additional details about this, go to <http://edmonton.ca/election> and click on "Advance Vote".

You may cast your vote using a Special (Mail-in) Ballot if you are an eligible voter and unable to make it to an Advance Vote or Election Day voting station because you are:

1. Physically incapacitated
2. Absent from the City of Edmonton
3. An election worker, candidate, official agent or scrutineer located at a voting station other than the one designated for your place of residence

You can obtain more information about special ballots by going to <http://edmonton.ca/election> and click on "Special (Mail-in) Ballot".

WORKING THE ELECTION

Wow! Now you're probably so excited about the election you can't wait to lend a hand and help. Not to worry, the city has that covered too. 3,000 workers are needed to run the pre-election and Election Day voting stations. More information on compensation and how to apply is available at

<http://edmonton.ca/election> and click on "Working the Election" in the left-hand sidebar.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Any other questions you may have about the upcoming election can be answered by contacting the City of Edmonton by Phone at 780-422-VOTE (8683), email at elections@edmonton.ca, or online at <http://edmonton.ca/election>.

Good luck in making your choices. I hope to see you at the polls!

PROVINCIAL BUDGET OPEN HOUSES

Albertans can share their priorities for Budget 2014 by attending one of 11 open house sessions across the province or completing an online survey. Public open house sessions will take place from October 9 to 18. People attending the sessions will be guided through a series of questions that will help government identify priorities for next year's budget. Albertans unable to attend one of the open house sessions can still provide their comments by completing an online survey. Submissions will be accepted until October 31.

Visit <http://alberta.ca/Budget-Take-Part.cfm> for more information or to take the survey.