



## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The Queen Alexandra Christmas Potluck is fast approaching! Bring friends and family to help kick-off the yuletide season.

The dinner is on Sunday, December 8, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Dinner will start at around 5:00. City of Edmonton staff will be there with crafts. There will be music courtesy of

the usual guys, you are more than welcome to bring an instrument and join in!

If you are feeling in the charitable spirit, bring an unwrapped toy or food for the food bank and we can deliver it to the right place for you.

RSVP to Lori-Anne at [rsvp@qacl.ca](mailto:rsvp@qacl.ca) or 780-432-0807.

## SNOW REMOVAL

Did you know that Edmonton has a bylaw that requires residents to shovel their sidewalks? With winter in full force here in Edmonton, it's something to remember. People love walking in our beautiful centrally located neighbourhood. Coffee shops, restaurants, grocery stores, and numerous other shops are close by and many people walk on a daily basis.

Please keep this in mind this winter as we struggle to get out in the cold and snow.

If you are unable to shovel this winter, did you know that the City of Edmonton offers a program called Snow Angels to help you? Call 311 for more information or visit [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca).

While you're on the website, you

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## LEAGUE EVENTS

**TUESDAYS, 9:30-11:30AM**

**QACL Playgroup**

*Queen Alexandra Hall*

**DECEMBER 8, 4PM**

**Christmas Potluck**

*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](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)

## 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

## SNOW REMOVAL

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can also find more information on snow removal schedules, which is useful when you have to remove your car from the street for ploughing.

You can also formally lodge a complaint if you notice that a sidewalk is not shovelled. If you are thinking of lodging a complaint though, remember that there is a fine for not following the

bylaw. So it might be neighbourly to first inquire as to why the walk isn't shovelled - sometimes someone might need a little help and a little information about the Snow Angels program might solve the problem. Remember to be safe and warm - happy winter walking everyone!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

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](mailto:info@qacl.ca).

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](mailto:news@qacl.ca) or 780-288-3057.

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

# PLAYGROUP NEWS

The QACL Playgroup has 14 couches, and coffee/snacks. Please feel registered families so far this free to stop in and check it out. Email year. We meet on Tuesday mornings *playgroup@qacl.ca* or phone Julie at from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the QACL 780-434-3787 if you have any hall (10425 University Avenue). Come questions. You can also visit for a relaxed morning where the *www.qacl.ca* for additional children can play and the adults can information. visit. We've got toys, colouring, comfy

## RECIPES FROM THE PLAYGROUP FILES

### PUMPKIN ROLL

*courtesy of Crystal Benoit*

My Nana used to make this delicious pumpkin roll for thanksgiving and Christmas. She remembers my great grandmother and I fighting over the last piece!

#### INGREDIENTS

3 eggs  
1 cup white sugar  
2/3 cup canned pumpkin  
3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
confectioners' sugar for dusting  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 tablespoons butter, softened  
8 ounces cream cheese

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease a 15x10x1 inch baking pan and line with parchment paper. Grease and flour the paper.

2. In a large bowl, beat eggs on high for five minutes. Gradually add white sugar and pumpkin. Add flour, cinnamon, and baking soda. Spread batter evenly in pan. Sprinkle walnuts evenly on top.  
3. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 15 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly touched. Immediately turn out onto a linen towel dusted with confectioners sugar. Peel off paper and roll cake up in the towel, starting with the short end. Cool.  
4. To Make Filling: Mix confectioners sugar, vanilla, butter or margarine, and cream cheese together till smooth.  
5. Carefully unroll the cake. Spread filling over cake to within 1 inch of edges. Roll up again. Cover and chill until serving. Dust with additional confectioners' sugar, if desired.

## LIVE LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

*by Live Local Alberta*

We've made it easy for you to shift your shopping habits to LOCAL this season (and hopefully for every other occasion).

1. Act local for your party planning needs. Impress your guests with your stunning home decor from a local shop.
2. Don't show up to a party empty handed! Get an array of local goodies from your local bakery or deli.
3. Say it with feeling! Get unique Christmas cards from a local stationer or gift store.
4. Looking for that perfect gift to give this year? The only place to find it is at a Local independent store.
5. Book your Christmas parties at a Local Restaurant or pub.
6. Prepare for your holiday party circuit by letting a local salon and beauty boutique take care of you, your face and your do.
7. Your look is never complete without the perfect ensemble. Hit up a boutique for sensational service and unique clothes.
8. Heading out of town? Make sure to gas up your ride at locally owned (and hopefully independent) businesses. This goes for your accommodations too.

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# EDMONTON'S SMART DEBT

by Ben Henderson, Councillor Ward 8

There are a number of misconceptions about the City's debt that need clarification.

First, the City, unlike other orders of government, is not legally allowed to run a deficit for day-to-day operations so we cannot and have not taken on debt to run the city. In fact, based on a strict reserve policy, we have built up a substantial reserve (approximately \$100 million) to cover against any unforeseen shortfalls in the operating budget.

The only debt taken on over the past few years has been used to build tangible, capital infrastructure such as the LRT, roadways, fire halls, bridges, police stations, recreation centres, libraries, etc. Our previous unwillingness to borrow meant only crumbling infrastructure and lack of amenities that citizens expect. Renewed borrowing over the past few years has enabled us to make serious headway in missing and failing infrastructure. Even with that borrowing, the City is still well within the legislated provincial debt limits and the City's own, much more stringent, limits.

Borrowing at a rate that is fixed for the entire term, and at an interest rate that is below the rate of inflation, allows us to use the debt in a smart way to deal with our infrastructure deficit. Construction costs have been

very low for the past few years so the time was right to build.

Essentially, the debt has been taken on for infrastructure that will be providing value to the City for many years; it has not exposed the City in any way to any structural shortfalls. In other words, the debt is well within limits, and all payments are budgeted and accounted for. Not borrowing for long term infrastructure is equivalent to buying a house without a mortgage. You would need to save your entire life only to be able to enjoy your home for a few twilight years. Borrowing allows the cost of the infrastructure to be borne by those who will benefit from it, and to pay for it as they use it, just as a mortgage allows you to live in your house while you pay for it. What must be ensured is that the payments are paid off long before the infrastructure either needs a major reinvestment, or ceases to exist. The City's debt policy is very careful not to break that rule.

Due to current low construction costs and interest rates, it makes considerable sense to erase as much infrastructure debt as possible. When comparing the likelihood of rising construction costs, and the current low borrowing rates, it is economically responsible to proceed as we are. In the current market, waiting to pay in full later on would be more expensive.

The amount of debt we have now

is at a healthy and manageable level. We have used low interest rates and low construction costs as a window of opportunity. Doing so has not exposed us to risk, and it has allowed us to catch up on many of the infrastructure projects that were seriously neglected over the past years.

## WINTER LIFE

The City of Edmonton is a finalist in the Winter Life Award for Canada's Communities in Bloom. Edmontonians are falling in love with winter and embracing all the season has to offer from outdoor recreation activities, to over ten winter festivals and holiday celebrations, and numerous community outreach initiatives that help those in need.

### LIVE LOCAL

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9. Take advantage of the busy season! Your city is vibrant and full of things to do. Hit up any Local Events, Festivals and Farmers markets.
10. 'Tis the season to give. Make sure any donations you make are sent to local non profits and charities.

Don't forget: When you think local first, it will hugely impact jobs, community well being & more!