



THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

NET TEAM UPDATE

By *Connie Marciniuk, Neighbourhood Engagement Team*

Since entering the Queen Alexandra community in October of 2013, we have been eagerly trying to catch ourselves up to speed on everything that is going on in and around the area. It has been impressive to see so many people committed to the well-being of the area and we appreciate the warm welcome we have received.

Initially we were tasked with identifying which of the four indicators (theft from vehicle, theft of vehicle, break and enters or assaults) should be our initial focus. After looking at Queen Alexandra's statistics, it became quite obvious that vehicle content theft must be addressed. There were 57 theft from vehicle occurrences reported to the police in Queen Alexandra last year. Depending on your perspective, 57 thefts may not seem like a lot. However, this is 57 people who were victimized, and 57 people whose life needed to be put on hold to deal with the matter and who may no longer feel comfortable and safe in their community. This is also 137% more 'thefts from vehicles' when comparing



2013 to 2012, so it is a substantial increase. Further consequences of a high incidence of property crimes can be especially concerning, because often these crimes are a symptom of larger issues like weakening social networks. This can contribute to isolation and alienation amongst community members.

We have been researching the nature of these occurrences (where were vehicles located, what was stolen, the time of day, the make of vehicle, etc.) which will allow our efforts to target the specific problem. We have begun implementing an action plan that includes a wide variety of strategies. In addition to creating open lines of communication with

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LEAGUE EVENTS

TUESDAYS, 9:30-11:30AM

QACL Playgroup

Queen Alexandra Hall

FEBRUARY 25, 7PM

Monthly Members Meeting

Queen Alexandra Hall

MARCH 25, 7PM

Monthly Members Meeting

Queen Alexandra Hall

QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Mailing Address

PO Box 4546
Edmonton AB T6E 5G4

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URL www.qacl.ca

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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

Lori-anne Bond

Building and Grounds

vacant

Programs

Mika Benjamin

Publicity

Crystal Benoit

Sports

Shelia Campbell

LEAGUE NOTES

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TREASURER

Maintains and reports on the accounts of the League. Receives all monies collected on behalf of the members, and pays all approved invoices & bills. With the support of the League's bookkeeper, prepares & files financial reports as required by government, funders, and other agencies. Bookkeeping experience an asset, but not mandatory. If interested, contact Myles at president@qacl.ca.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee is tasked with planning, organizing and running social events for the members of the League. If you like planning parties, come out and help us throw some fun events this year. If interested, contact Russ at info@qacl.ca.

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. For more info or to volunteer, contact Crystal at news@qacl.ca.

IN MEMORIUM

CATHERINE MOUNTAIN

The league would like to offer most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Catherine Mountain, on Catherine's recent death. Catherine enjoyed working with the community league very much and she spent countless hours volunteering her time to improve the neighborhood. She loved her family, friends, music and the church, where she played the organ.

Catherine was a wonderful contributor to the Tipton Park committee and she will very much be missed. She joined the committee because she wanted to see the park across from her apartment building improved for the students, young professional, families and kids who use it. She sent monthly updates on how construction was progressing for the newsletter. She enjoyed the new gazebo and benches, and was looking forward to being able to use them on sunny, summer days. Even when she moved from her apartment in Queen Alexandra, she still wanted to hear updates on the project as it moved along.

Catherine was a wonderful person who will be greatly missed in the community. Her brother is organizing a memorial in Edmonton in May. Details of the memorial will be shared in April's newsletter.

PLAYGROUP NEWS

The QACL Playgroup is expanding! As a result of this excellent news, we're on the hunt for a few children's items:

1. Exersaucer
2. Preschool basketball hoop and ball (designed for ages 2-5 or so)
3. Balls of assorted sizes (no smaller or harder than a tennis ball)
4. Large foam building blocks (like those at John Janzen Nature Centre)

If you are able to donate any of these items to playgroup, or if you have any questions about joining Playgroup, please contact Playgroup Coordinator Julie Kusiek at 780-434-3787 or email playgroup@qacl.ca. Please note that all donated items must be clean and in excellent working condition (no damaged/ broken/ scribbled/ missing pieces or parts).

PLAYGROUP RECIPE OF THE MONTH

GRANOLA BARS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups rolled oats
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup wheat germ
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup raisins (optional)
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Generously grease a 9"x13" baking pan.
2. In a large bowl, mix together the oats, brown sugar, wheat germ, cinnamon, flour, raisins and salt. Make a well in the center, and pour in the honey, egg, oil and vanilla. Mix well using your hands. Pat the mixture evenly into the prepared pan.
3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes in the preheated oven, until the bars begin to turn golden at the edges. Cool for 5 minutes, then cut into bars while still warm. Do not allow the bars to cool completely before cutting, or they will be too hard to cut.

MEMBER CLASSIFEDS

PIANO LESSONS IN YOUR HOME - QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED TEACHER

If you've been looking for someone to teach piano right here in our neighborhood, call Amber Jorgenson at 780-716-8740 for more information.

YOGA AT THE HALL

Are you looking for something to do in the neighborhood on Tuesday nights? A way to stay fit and also meet your neighbors at the same time? Maybe you'd like an activity that is close to home, rather than drive across the city. A Queen Alexandra member, Tamara Roberts, teaches yoga at the hall on Tuesday nights. There is more space in the class and it would be great to find more students from the community if possible.

Hatha Yoga - 8 week session (continuing beginner) on Tuesday nights starting January 21 until March 11. There will be a focus on physical alignment and poses will help develop strength, flexibility, promote relaxation and build the foundations for more advanced poses as the weeks go on. Poses will be retaught for those new to yoga and there will be a focus on breathing and meditation at the start of each class.

Time: 7:00-8:15 Tuesdays

Price: \$96.00 per session

Location: Queen Alex Hall

Bring: a yoga mat

Dress: comfortable pants/shorts and a top that have stretch. Layers are ideal to regulate your temperature.

THE WINTER PARKING CONUNDRUM

By Councillor Ben Henderson, Ward 8

Three years ago, the winter streets of Edmonton rarely saw a full cycle of neighbourhood blading. At that time, citizens were quite vocal that the general policy of 'freeze it where it falls until it thaws,' was not sufficient. In response, Council introduced neighbourhood blading to improve winter driving conditions and overall snow removal.

The current blading program has some strong benefits, but also some major downfalls. On-street parking and the inconvenience it causes is one of the most regular complaints that Council receives.

Restricting residential parking to garages, driveways and parking pads is not realistic for some families, especially in dense neighbourhoods. However, continuing a parking on both sides of narrow residential streets may not be the most practical approach considering our snowy winters.

An attempt is made to minimize windrows but in so doing so there is 5 cm of snow on the roadway that creates havoc in thaw cycles. Moving into February and as the snow builds up, many Edmonton streets are beginning to look like shallow trenches, just wide enough to allow for one vehicle to drive by, never mind

two lanes of traffic.

The current policy attempts to balance everyone's needs by maintaining on-street parking access for motorists, while providing neighbourhood blading for smoother movement through residential areas; however, perhaps the policy falls short.

How should we move forward? There is support for a program that would allow residential parking on one side of the street. There is also support for a rotating short-term neighbourhood ban during scheduled blading. If there could be a windrow on one side of the street with no parking and ensure there were openings for sidewalks and driveways then the city could actually plow to the pavement instead of blading to 5 cm and hoping it did not melt and leave quality parking space on the other side. Is Edmonton ready for this? This winter has not been without its challenges and frustrations. Your response is needed for these ideas, so City Council can consider these conversations to decide how to make our winter-city safer and more agreeable to all.

Contact Ben at ben.henderson@edmonton.ca or at 780.496.8146. Twitter @ben_hen

GREEN SHACK PROGRAM

WHY IS THE CITY CHANGING THE PROGRAM?

In order to sustain the Green Shack play program, can no longer be reliant on employment grants that are not specifically designed for recreations. With a goal of sustainability, the City will consider summer Green Shack play program and youth drop-in programs a base-level municipal service. District parks, skateboard parks, Flying Eagle, and travelling playground programs continue to be considered a base-level municipal service and are fully funded by the City.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED GREEN SHACK PROGRAM?

Typically a neighbourhood that meets the established criteria will receive a fully funded half-day summer Green Shack play program. A community contribution of \$1000 from each community partner will help ensure the continued success of this valued program. A community application for provincial or federal employment grants will not qualify to support the summer Green Shack play program. Community Recreation Coordinators will continue to support community groups to apply for grants

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SPRING BREAK DAY CAMP

March 31 to April 4, 2014

Queen Alexandra Community Hall

Do you want to come to camp, but don't know which theme to try? This camp is for you! You will get a taste of all sorts of camp fun. From cooking, dancing, outdoor adventures, arts, and sports, you will get the chance to discover what your favorite activity is in this "theme a day" program.

- **Children 6 to 12 years old**
- **Early drop-off** 8:00 am – 9:00 am
- **Late pick-up** 4:00 – 5:00 pm
- **Programming** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- **Cost:** \$149.00 /participant
- **Course Code:** 518438

REGISTER NOW!

- **Call:** 311
- **Online:** <http://EReg.edmonton.ca>
- **In Person:** At any City of Edmonton Leisure Centre

OUTDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION

Janice Hicks, Administrator, South West Edmonton Minor Soccer Association

If you live in one of the EMSA SW Zone communities & haven't yet registered your child for our community soccer program now is the perfect time!

Registration & payments are made directly with the community in which you reside. Deadlines for "on time" registration payment & ages accepted vary from community to community. Details can be found on our web site www.swemsa.com OUTDOOR tab - check out the right hand side of the page for full instructions. It is an EMSA regulation that all players have a 2013/14 community league membership #. If you don't have your membership yet, links to all communities in our zone are provided on our District pages.

Is your child interested in additional skill training practices? SW Sting will continue it's U8 Outdoor Developmental Training Program in May, June, late July & August. This program is in addition to the Community soccer program & is not intended to replace the fun kids have by playing with friends & schoolmates close to where they live. Program details & a sign up link can be found

on the SW Sting web site www.swstingsoccer.com or via www.swemsa.com HOME page. Exact dates/times/locations will be sent to those registered closer to the time.

Coaches are always needed for the outdoor season. You can show your interest to help out with a team on the registration form by selecting the COACH or ASSISTANT COACH volunteer option. You will be contacted by your community once the player registration process is complete & they know how many teams they will be forming. All coaching volunteers go through a Volunteer Police Information Check for the vulnerable sector before they are confirmed on a team roster. SWEMSA also offers clinics for new U4 - U10 Coaches, as well as ASA NCCP Certification courses for existing Coaches from U4 - U18 age levels. Full details can be found on our web site COACHES tab.

Thank you for your previous interest in our soccer program, we hope to see your child registered for the 2014 outdoor season.

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WWW.QACL.CA

NET TEAM UPDATE

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community members and encouraging social connections, we will be focusing on commonly targeted parking areas. The first will be apartment parking lots. We have begun conversations with apartment owners and are offering recommendations to make their parking lots safer. After this we will be focusing on residential street and alley parking, so expect to see us on your block soon. Although we will be reinforcing old crime prevention messages, we are also investigating new ways of conveying information that will resonate with people and impact behaviour. There have also been problems in commercial parking lots, so we are in negotiations to pilot a program in that enhances the safety of public parking structures and the surrounding areas. This program has shown an amazing statistical reduction in the number of vehicle-related crimes, so we are confident this approach can be successful in this community.

A reduction in the number of theft from vehicles in Queen Alexandra is important. It will be an indicator of our success, however technically this goal is minor in

comparison to our real intention. Ultimately we want to break down barriers with residents because we want to ensure they feel safe in their community. Stakeholders and community residents have worked hard to make Queen Alexandra the wonderful place it is, and we want people to feel comfortable enjoying all it has to offer.

If you have any questions or would like information more specific to our action plan please feel free to contact us.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT TEAM

- **Constable John Beatson**
780-717-7478
john.beatson@edmontonpolice.ca
- **Connie Marciniuk,**
Community Capacity Builder
780-975-3921
connie.marciniuk@edmonton.ca
Twitter: @Connie_NET
- **Lane Gagnon,** Youth Liaison
780-718-8808
lane.gagnon@the-family-centre.com
Instagram: Lane_NET

GREEN SHACK PROGRAM

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to meet other recreation needs.

The City will determine where summer Green Shack play programs are provided; based on clear criteria and quantifiable data:

- High needs areas, using neighbourhood indicator rankings
- Percentage of population that is 6 - 12 years old
- Attendance average between 2009 and 2013
- New playground development within the last two years
- City-owned park space is developed to at least grade-level seed in new and emerging neighbourhoods
- Final decisions on summer Green Shack play program locations will be communicated in early 2014.

HOW WILL THE 2014 YOUTH PROGRAM DECISIONS BE MADE?

District skateboard parks will be fully funded by the City, a community contribution or application for provincial or federal grants will not be required to fund the summer youth program. To maximize resources and positively impact the youth experience the City is moving to a hub model. Youth Hubs will be created in each district of the city to support youth programs these hubs will be located at Skateboard parks and additional Hubs in each of the four districts.

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