



THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

FALL 2014

QA CROSSROADS

by Julie Kusiek

Wow! This summer has been a whirlwind for this hard-working & dedicated committee of the League!

QA Crossroads is made up of a group of residents who want to work with the city to make improvements to the way that 106 Street & 76 Avenue are used as part of our Neighbourhood Renewal process. QA Crossroads has created a vision and set of six principles that will guide development of solutions for a better neighbourhood (visit us on Facebook or at www.qacl.ca to learn more).

PRIORITY REQUESTS

QA Crossroads has submitted to the city three priority requests for inclusion with neighbourhood renewal:

Crossroads: The intersection of 106 Street & 76 Avenue accommodates all users; is highly visible & safe, & contributes to community identity.

Crosswalks: Are frequent & accessible to all users, limit the number of steps pedestrians take on the road, & are highly visible to traffic.

Protected/Separated Bike Lanes: 106 Street & 76 Avenue accommodate all users, act as a bridge across the

neighbourhood, & maximize cycling infrastructure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Met with City of Edmonton staff on July 17 to discuss vision & principles.

Submitted a proposal to the City July 22. The City is continuing to work on bike lane options & some requests around beautification, community identity & signage. The City was unable to, at this time, accommodate any of our requests to upgrade crosswalks due to current guidelines .

Presented to Executive Committee of City Council on August 19 regarding this project's potential to advance quality infill.

Presented to the Transportation Committee of City Council on August 20 regarding current city guidelines to crosswalks in Edmonton.

Received news coverage in the Edmonton Journal, Metro, and on CBC Radio

Obtained Letters of Support from the EFCL, Public School Trustee Michael Janz, Edmonton Bicycle Commuters, Strathcona Complete Streets, 1912 Studio, OSBA, and the Old Strathcona Foundation

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LEAGUE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 20, 11AM-3PM

Community League Day

Pool Party & Membership Drive

Scona Pool

SEPTEMBER 30, 7PM

Monthly Members' 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

vacant

1st Vice President

John Thompsen

2nd Vice President

Ann Brown

Secretary

vacant

Treasurer

Noella Bradbury

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Neighbourhood Planning

vacant

Membership

vacant

Building and Grounds

vacant

Programs

Julie Kusiek

Publicity

vacant

Social

Russ Miyagawa

Sports

Shelia Campbell

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOARD & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Community League has a number of vacant board positions that need to be filled immediately.

If you've been thinking about taking on a larger role with the community league, there is no better time than today. No need to be shy or doubtful of your abilities, experienced board members will help coach you in your role. Enthusiasm and willingness to help build a better community are the only pre-requisites.

We are looking for:

- President
- Secretary
- Building & Grounds Chair
- Membership Chair
- Publicity Chair
- Neighbourhood Planning Chair

If you are interested in any of these roles, please email info@qacl.ca. Want to help, but can't commit to a leadership position? Volunteers are always needed for any of the committees listed in the sidebar.

SKATING RINK COORDINATOR

Do you like to skate? Or maybe just like the idea of a good ol' fashioned outdoor rink? The children and other skaters of Queen Alexandra need you!

In previous years, Ken Bond has taken over management of the rink and all the volunteers needed to shovel and flood throughout the season.

We're in need of a new rink coordinator. What does this entail?

- Working with the Programs & Social Committees to plan a "rink raising" social, where we put together the rink and an appreciation potluck afterwards
- Maintaining a rink flooding

schedule with volunteer flooders

- Ensuring the rink is shoveled off after a snowfall, with the help of your volunteers
- Optional: attending the City of Edmonton workshop on how to do an awesome outdoor rink

If you would like to take on the lead role or volunteer as a rink flooder/shoveller, then please email rink@qacl.ca.

As with all Queen Alexandra volunteer run programs, we won't have a rink unless there are community members to make it happen. If you want a rink this season, then let's do it together!

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

PROGRAMS UPDATE

PROGRAM IDEA? MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Julie Kusiek is the new Queen Alexandra Community League chairperson. She doesn't like to sit still and she doesn't like to let good ideas go to waste.

If you have a great idea for programming this year and want some guidance as to how to make it a reality, please email programs@qacl.ca or phone Julie at 780-434-3787. She'll help get you started and support you through your program to completion.

Some examples you may wish to pursue:

- QA walking group
- QA neighbourhood watch
- QA playgroup
- Bread baking or canning bees
- Spring re-use fair
- QA band
- Art show featuring QA artists
- Babysitter registry
- Handy person club
- QA book club

The sky's the limit. If you can dream it, and have the drive to make it happen, we can help you get there.

GREEN SHACK PROGRAM

Thank you to the City of Edmonton for hosting the Green Shack program at Queen Alexandra park this year. Thank you also to our leader, Amara. It was a great summer!

QA CROSSROADS

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WALK, BIKE, & LIVE AT COMMUNITY LEAGUE DAY

Neighbourhood reconstruction provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for communities to influence the physical shape and functionality of their neighbourhood. Members of City Council have indicated their strong support for our project.. They like that we are staying focused on the positive, generating and sharing good news stories, and working together to make a difference.

Councillors also need to know that there is a broad, wide, and diverse support for this project. Community League day is a perfect setting to demonstrate the wide support for the project. QA Crossroads will be putting together a wide variety of all the ways you can WALK, BIKE, or LIVE in Queen Alexandra. By participating in these events, you'll be showing your support for a walkable, bikeable, and liveable Queen Alexandra. We'll be inviting various organizations from the area to come and show their support as well.

HOW CAN I HELP?

The success the QA Crossroads project depends on how much effort we can collectively put in, and how fast we can do it. The City is currently in final design stages for our neighbourhood reconstruction. That plan is slated to be presented to the community in early

2015. That leaves three months to influence the outcome.

QUICK & EASY WAYS TO HELP
“Like” us at **Make Something Edmonton** at www.makesomethingedmonton.ca

“Like” us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/qacrossroads

Follow us on Twitter @QAcrossroads
Retweet and share the posts that you really like

Tell your friends about the project

MORE WAYS TO HELP

Post a story to Facebook or email crossroads@qacl.ca telling us how this project will positively impact your life
Complete a community member profile— email crossroads@qacl.ca

Attend the Community League Day Pool Party & participate in the WALK BIKE LIVE activities

JOIN THE COMMITTEE:

Volunteer for the committee: email crossroads@qacl.ca or call 780-434-3787. There are large, small, big, tiny, short, long, interesting, and boring jobs all to be done. We can find something that will fit your schedule and interests.

For more information, visit QA Crossroads on Facebook at www.facebook.com/qacrossroads, on the web at www.qacl.ca, or email crossroads@qacl.ca.

CROSSWALKS & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

by Councillor Ben Henderson, Ward 8

Crosswalks and pedestrian safety has been a hot issue this season. With the unfortunate accidents of Jasper & 119 Street, as well as 95 Avenue in Strathearn, it is clear that we must do more to create a conducive environment for both pedestrians and drivers alike. These issues are exceptionally apparent in Ward 8 with the high number of pedestrians, & it is a situation that I intend to improve.

The Transportation Association of Canada's (TAC) Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide acts as a guideline for local governments to uniformly implement marked & signed crosswalks throughout the country. The guide considers the posted speed limit, cross section of the roadway, distance to the nearest alternate crossing, number & types of pedestrians, & vehicular volume, as indicators for the type of crosswalk to be installed. While these measurements are helpful, the trouble is that they do not take into account other things that are not as easy to measure.

There have been some problematic intersections that local residents have repeatedly raised concern over. In the past, we haven't done much as the

argument was they fit within the TAC standards. I strongly feel that we need to do better; go beyond the standards when the need calls, & incorporate residents' knowledge into the mix.

Moving forward, Transportation Services will be assessing the major pedestrian corridors of Whyte Avenue, 109 Street, 104 Avenue & Jasper Avenue, & will be considering upgrades to older marked & signed crosswalks through these areas.

From a community side, we have grassroots work happening in Queen Alexandra through the coordination of QA Crossroads. The community will be undergoing neighbourhood renewal next year & the group is advocating that following rehabilitation, Queen Alexandra should have gone through more than just a facelift. This is an opportunity to make sure that the infrastructure is conducive for all modes of transportation, making it a more walkable, bikable, livable and safe neighbourhood for all.

Feel free to contact me at ben.henderson@edmonton.ca, call me at 780-496-8146, or follow me on Twitter, [@ben_hen](https://twitter.com/ben_hen).

PROGRAMS

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PLAYGROUP UPDATE

The Queen Alexandra Community League will be running its playgroup for the third straight year! The program is held at the hall and runs one morning per week from October to April. This program has proven to be a great success and a wonderful way to meet other families in the neighbourhood.

To sign up for this program, you must be a community league member and pay an annual fee of \$20. As a volunteer-run program, participants are also expected to help out as needed to make the group run smoothly. Registrations will be accepted at the September 20 QAACL membership day.

Some changes will be coming to playgroup this year, including the day of the week we will be at the hall. We'll share the details as soon as they are finalized.

For more information about playgroup, email playgroup@qacl.ca or phone 780-434-3787.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

[HTTP://QAACL.CA/FACEBOOK](http://qacl.ca/facebook)



HATHA YOGA AT QUEEN ALEX HALL (BEGINNERS WELCOME!)

What: Hatha Yoga continuing beginner level. Led by two experienced & certified yoga teachers (Tamara Roberts & Debbie Bellerose).

When: Tuesdays 7pm-8:15pm; (8 weeks starting September 23).

Cost: \$96. **Contact:** tamtamrob@hotmail.com or 780-885-8265.