



THE ALEXANDRAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

SUMMER 2015

ENJOY SUMMER IN QA!

By Sheila Campbell, President

Summer brings out the best of living in Queen Alexandra. There's life on the streets with people walking and biking to work and play. Friends and families wander to Whyte Ave. to take in festivals, the farmers' market, shops and pubs. The parks and playgrounds are busy with kids playing tag, toddlers digging in the sand, young adults playing basketball, students reading in the sun, and seniors catching up over coffee. People are in their yards and gardens, on front porches and balconies, enjoying the long, long days. Summer is also the time for construction, and this summer may be unlike any other in QA history: new roads and sidewalks part of Neighbourhood Renewal; new entrance, signs and seating at Tipton Park; new playground equipment and landscaping at Queen Alexandra Park; and new infills, duplexes, townhouses, condos and commercial – under construction or proposed. Construction brings change, but what doesn't change is that summer still brings out the best of living in Queen Alexandra. Get out and enjoy summer in QA! As you're out there, if you're looking for a way to connect with your neighbours and make QA a better place to live, get in touch with the league. There's lots of ways - big and small - to get involved.

QA SUMMERFEST

SummerFest is returning to Queen Alexandra Park (108 St & 73 Ave) on Saturday, June 20th from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be jumpy castles, playground activities, crafts, and the much-loved petting zoo. Bring your QA league membership for a free hot dog from Fat Franks. The success of SummerFest is in the many hands that make it happen. Check out the volunteer tasks and sign up for a one hour (or more) time slot online at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/J37JM> or contact parks@qacl.ca.

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Sports

Vacant

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOARD & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Would you like to meet a few ideas, energy and a desire to more folks in your contribute. If you'd like to help out on neighbourhood and help make QA an any of the committees, please email even better place to live? All of our info@qacl.ca and we'll connect you committees welcome volunteers with with the right person.

NEW COMMITTEE COULD FOCUS ON WELLNESS IN QA

Traditionally, the QA Sports to help. What activities could be Committee has focused on included? What could we offer close to activities for kids. At the last general home that would interest our meeting, the idea of transforming the members? Like sports these days, Sports Committee or launching a new many activities focus on health around committee on wellness was put the City – so maybe the committee just forward. This new group could be keeps everyone informed about them, responsible for sports activities in QA from courses to clinics or monthly but could also include wider articles. Things could start slowly and possibilities for offering education, build as new ideas emerge. programs and other opportunities in If you have any time, energy and the areas of fitness, health and ideas for this possible new direction, wellness for all QA members. please email Mika at

Maybe you have ideas for a yohoyoho@shaw.ca before the next different name and different QA meeting on June 30 so we can possibilities. Hopefully someone determine the level of interest. If you would like to take on this sub- are interested, people could meet or committee as its chair or just volunteer email over the summer or into the fall.

COMMUNITY GARDEN OPPORTUNITY

Interested in making a community garden a reality in QA? The site plan for Queen Alexandra Park includes space for a community garden in the southeast corner next to the gazebo. The league has funds earmarked for QA Park that can be considered for a community garden. What does it take to create a community garden? A committed group of volunteers who want to make it happen! You're not alone, either. Sustainable Food Edmonton mentors budding groups, and connects them with the expertise and experience of the existing 30 community garden groups in Edmonton. Interested? Contact parcs@qacl.ca.

QA CROSSROADS

– WALK BIKE LIVE –

Submitted by Julie Kusiek

QA Crossroads has been a busy bunch over the past year. A group of neighbours in Queen Alexandra got together last May to seize the opportunity that neighbourhood renewal provides. If the roads are all being dug up anyhow, this group of citizens wanted to have a different kind of conversation about how they could be put back better. QA Crossroads has been asking to marry our community experience with the City's technical expertise to come up with workable solutions that will make 106th Street and 76th Avenue more

walkable, bikeable, and liveable.

While it's been a lot of work, that hard work and positive attitude has paid off. Construction on 106th Street and 76th Avenue will still take place in 2017, as planned. However, extra time has been granted to re-envision and re-design these two roads.

QA Crossroads has partnered with the City of Edmonton and a number of other community leagues to try out a pilot project to have such a conversation. It's about working together collaboratively, positively and towards a common goal to transform

106th Street and 76th Avenue into walkable, bikeable, liveable public spaces that connect people. More details will be out shortly and we'll be asking for your help to continue the conversation. Stay tuned to your email, the Queen Alexandra Community League and QA Crossroads Facebook pages, as well as Twitter @QACrossroads. An update will also be posted to www.qacl.ca when available.

For more information about past QA Crossroads activities, you can go to the Make Something Edmonton website or www.qacl.ca.

Some publicity over the past few months you may be interested to view is here:

- Transforming Edmonton website (online only):
<http://transformingedmonton.ca/walking-biking-and-living-safely-in-queen-alexandra/>
- Alberta Views Magazine (online and print copies available):
<https://albertaviews.ab.ca/2015/01/05/what-could-your-community-look-like-31/>

QA Crossroads also wishes to thank Emily Vespi for her leadership in working with other communities to put on 106Fest in May. It was a great event to showcase our wonderful neighbourhoods and all the great things already in place in Queen Alexandra (#yegQA) and elsewhere along the corridor.

FREE!! GREEN SHACK SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM AT TIPTON PARK

Tipton Park at 10849 – 81 Ave is the site of the 2015 Green Shack Summer Playground Program in our community. The spray deck will be open and kids can join in games, sports, crafts, music, drama and special events with a playground leader. Children ages 6-12 are welcome, ages 5 and under must be supervised by a parent or guardian. The program runs Monday to Friday from July 2 to August 25, from 10am to 1:30pm.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20, 11am to 3 pm

QA SummerFest
QA Park (108 St & 73 Ave)

June 30

Nomination deadline for Front Yards
in Bloom

June 30, 7 pm

Monthly Members' Meeting
Queen Alexandra Hall

July 1, 1-4pm

Free swim and BBQ at Scona Pool
Free Swim: 1-4pm
Free BBQ: 1-3pm
Scona Pool

July 2-August 25,

Green Shack Program
10am to 1:30 pm daily
Tipton Park (108 St and 80 Ave)

July 26, 11am to 7 pm

Ronald McDonald House Block
Party
RMH is hosting its third annual
Block Party on July 26, 11 am to 7
pm, right at the House at 7726-107
Street. There will be main stage
artists, games, activities, food, a
scavenger hunt and more! The Block
Party is a great way to learn more
about this invaluable home-away-
from-home for families with
children being treated in Edmonton
hospitals. Check out
www.rmhcna.org for details.
*Ronald McDonald House (7726-107
St)*

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

2015 is the first year of three years of construction as part of neighbourhood renewal in QA. More information on the schedule from 2015-2017 is available at http://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/on_your_streets/queen-alexandra-neighbourhood-renewal.aspx. The area of work for 2015 is between 70 Ave and 74 Ave from 104 to 109 St., with the exception of 106 Street. 106 Street and 76 Avenue will both be done in 2017 (see the article on QA Crossroads for more details).

The following points were gleaned from discussions with other communities that had already been through the renewal process and from experiences of QA residents who are already in the midst of reconstruction.

1. Be prepared for a great deal of noise and dust (fine particles will find their way into your house too). Construction activities can occur between 7am and 10pm most days.
2. Canada Post will not deliver mail while sidewalks are under construction. Affected houses will receive a notice from Canada Post advising where and how you can collect your mail during that time.
3. To the extent that you can, be around when work is occurring on your block in case there are any questions or concerns, either on your part or the contractor's.
4. You may wish to take "before" and "after" pictures, and pay particular attention to:
 - Sidewalk reconstruction; let the

project superintendent know if shifting or cracking occurs, even up to two years after the work is done.

- Wet concrete; alert the project superintendent if sidewalks are vandalized while the concrete is drying.
 - Sod and soil replacement along sidewalk (quality, packing, etc.).
 - Boulevard connectors – the short sidewalks between the main sidewalk and the curb.
 - Front driveway reconstruction.
5. If you have trees on your own property and they overhang the work area, they will be pruned and you should have already received a letter from the City about this. If possible, try to be home when the pruning is done in case there are any questions.
 6. The City's urban forestry department and contractors are working closely together to minimize any damage to boulevard tree roots during reconstruction. If you notice and have concerns about exposed or damaged tree roots, phone the urban forestry department at 780-496-4958, or call 311.

The City of Edmonton project manager for QA is Steve Schmidt. He can be reached by phone at 780-423-6793, or by email at steve.schmidt@edmonton.ca. The project superintendent for the contractor (Standard General) is Alan Snidal, whose number is 780-975-5517.

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WHAT IS FRIENDS OF SCONA POOL?

Friends of Scona Pool is a community-based advocacy group that was born in 2009/2010 when Scona Pool was shut down due to low usage. This group of community volunteers from about a dozen different community leagues, aquatic groups and others came together to bring attention to the pool's closure and advocate for its re-opening. By 2012, Scona Pool was not only back up and running, but it has been put back into the base operating budget of the City of Edmonton, which means community members can assume it will remain open year-to-year.

How did Friends of Scona Pool do this? There were a few key components:

- 1) We stayed positive and remained respectful to City of Edmonton staff and Council members
- 2) We showed community ownership of the pool (raised funds to renovate the party room, held an I Swim

Scona! marketing campaign, raised user rates, as well as other activities) 3) Continue to encourage community members to use the pool through annual events such as the Canada Day free swim, as well as during public swim and lessons

However, Scona Pool is getting old. At some point there will need to be another discussion as to its future. Should it be renovated? Should the City build a replacement small-scale rec facility in the area? What else could be considered?

To be prepared for this discussion, Friends of Scona Pool encourages you to get out and continue using Scona Pool, just as you have been for the past number of years. If you're interested in getting more involved with Friends of Scona Pool, please feel free to email Julie at friendsofsconapool@gmail.com.

SUMMERTIME SWIMS

Now that summer is here, the notion of a swim has even more appeal. In addition to the continuing swims at Scona Pool (see <http://www.sconapool.com/>), QACL has opted into the program to provide our members with free swimming at outdoor pools this summer. You must

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NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

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Finally, please be courteous to the contractors who are working on your street. This is a big job and everyone wants it to go as smoothly as possible. A cold glass of water on a hot day would undoubtedly be appreciated! And as work progresses, consider sending kudos to the City and Councillor Henderson to express your appreciation for the big improvement this will bring to our neighbourhood!

CANADA DAY

Free BBQ & Pool Party

JULY 1ST

RiverCity Recreation will again be hosting the Canada Day Free Swim & BBQ on July 1st.

Free Swim: 1 pm to 4 pm

Free BBQ: 1 pm to 3 pm

Thank you to Friends of Scona Pool volunteers Elaine Solez, Iga Speur, Julie Kusiek and the entire New family (Joyce, Bruce and children) for organizing the day. We'll have patio activities, bike decorating, games, and lots of other fun. More volunteers are always welcome. If you're available, please email friendsofsconapool@gmail.com.

FRONT YARDS IN BLOOM

NOMINATE NOW!

WWW.FRONTYARDSINBLOOM.CA

QA PARKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

This summer the league is completing the current phase of redevelopment at Tipton Park (108 St & 80 Ave). In 2013, the labyrinth spray deck was opened, with a new gazebo, seating and landscaping. These features have refreshed the southwest corner of the park. To refresh the southeast corner of the park, the league allocated funds for new picnic tables, benches, landscaping and historical signage. The Gyro Club sign will be relocated to the southeast corner, creating a feature gateway into Tipton Park. Construction is scheduled from June to September. The Green Shack and labyrinth spray deck will be open during construction (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

We can say good-bye this summer to the wooden playground equipment at Queen Alexandra Park (108 St & 73 Ave). Construction starts in July to replace this equipment, and to plant new shrubs, berry bushes and trees, add new benches, and make the hill bigger for tobogganing. Many thanks to the Parks Committee volunteers who turned community input into a park and playground design that kids and adults can enjoy for years to come. Construction is scheduled from June to September. The spray deck will be open during construction.

The best way to keep our parks as great community spaces during

construction is to use them. If you see inappropriate activity at either park, please report it to the City of Edmonton at 311 or the Edmonton Police Service.

FRONT YARDS IN BLOOM

Do your friends and neighbours have beautiful yards? Recognize and appreciate them by nominating their yard for a Front Yards in Bloom award! You can nominate a yard in one of four categories:

- General: Appealing front yards that make people smile as they pass by. Can include a variety of colours, textures, plants, and garden features.
- Natural: Yards with a “natural” aesthetic, using native plants and limited chemicals.
- Edible: Yards that include edible fruits, flowers, and vegetables in the landscape design.
- Public Spaces: This is a new category and refers to yards with landscaping features and aesthetic appeal in front of a public building (e.g., school, office, multi-unit residence, church, community hall).

Nominations can be submitted until Tuesday, June 30th. All you need to know is the address of the space you want to nominate and you can nominate as many spaces as you wish (but you cannot nominate your own

yard). Simply submit your nomination online at www.frontyardsinbloom.ca or call 311. Nominees will receive a yellow lawn sign and mailbox brochure, and award recipients will be announced at the Edmonton in Bloom Awards on August 12th.

If you'd like to nominate a beautiful balcony or apartment green space, check out the Balconies in Bloom program at www.efcl.org or www.facebook.ca/om/BalconiesInBloom.

TRAFFIC CHANGES COMING SOUTH OF QA

The Pleasantview community has been working with the City of Edmonton to review ways to address traffic concerns in the neighbourhood related to high traffic volumes, speeding and shortcutting. Using information from a January 2014 community survey and two March 2104 open houses, a plan was developed for traffic calming measures that are expected to be tested for a two-year trial period starting

this summer. They could affect QA residents who use 109 Street south of 61 Ave, and 106 Street. The trial plan includes:

- Changing 106 Street between 53 Ave and 56 Ave to one-way northbound for motor vehicles and adding a northbound parking lane on 106 St. between 53 and 56 Aves. Bicycle traffic will still be able to travel north and south.

• An intersection modification that

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DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Between May 26 and June 8, 2015, the following development applications were made in Queen Alexandra. Development application information is available on the City's website here: <http://maps.edmonton.ca/>. Click on Development Applications, select date range, select Queen Alexandra as the boundaries, and the list is made.

Uncovered Deck Development Permit: 172844141-004

To construct a rear uncovered deck (upper 1.52m x 1.322m @ 1.04m in Height; lower irregular shape 2.44m x 5.99m @ 0.61m in Height) and pergola (irre...10623 - 76 AVENUE NW

Minor Development Permit: 172844141-002

To construct interior alteration to an existing Single Detached House, Basement development (NOT to be used as an additional Dwelling). 10623 - 76 AVENUE NW

Major Development Permit: 173559004-001

To construct exterior alterations to an existing General Retail Stores with Accessory Specialty Food Services Use building (facade improvement). 10401 - 82 AVENUE NW

173767308-001 To construct a Single Detached House with front veranda, fireplace, rear uncovered deck (4.88m x 3.66m) to develop a Secondary Suite in the Basement. 10814 - 73 AVENUE NW

SUMMERTIME SWIMS

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present your valid community league membership card to get in for free, so remember to pack it! Here is the schedule for the community swims:

*Mill Creek Outdoor Pool
9555 82 Avenue*

May 30 - Sept 6, 2015
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday &
Saturday 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

*Queen Elizabeth Outdoor Pool
9170 Walterdale Hill*

May 31 – August 28, 2015
Sunday & Tuesday 5:00 pm – 7:00
pm, Monday & Wednesday 6:00 pm
– 8:00 pm

*Oliver Outdoor Pool
10315 119 Street*

June 14 - Sept 6, 2015
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday &
Wednesday 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

*Fred Broadstock Outdoor Pool
15720 105 Avenue*

May 30 – August 29, 2015
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday &
Wednesday 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

TRAFFIC CHANGES

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will not allow north/south motor vehicle traffic to travel straight through the intersection at 106 St and 51 Ave. Bicycle traffic will still be able to travel straight through the intersection.

- Curb extensions at the 109 St and 58 Ave intersection and the 109 St and 60 Ave intersection to narrow the road and encourage lower traffic speeds.
- A centre median at the 109 St and 54

Ave intersection. The centre media will not allow north/south motor vehicles to drive straight through the intersection or turn left. It will also prevent east/west traffic from turning left.

For more information, visit www.edmonton.ca/pleasantviewtraffic.



DONT FORGET.....

**QA SUMMER
FEST**

JUNE 20TH