



# NEWS

## SEPT 2007



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# It's Membership Month

**Sign Up or Renew Your Community League Membership Today**

Whether you're a long-time resident or brand-new to Queen Alex, the time is now to purchase your 2007-08 Community League membership.

### What is a Community League?

A Community League is a volunteer not-for-profit organization formed to meet the needs and interests of residents within a defined geographic area.

Queen Alexandra Community League is part of a network of neighbourhood-based organizations operating under the umbrella of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL).

Any resident within the boundaries of the community may become a member.

### Community Awareness/ Advocacy

The Community League can be the means to express a broad range of concerns, whether it be about social, physical planning, recreation, land use, transportation, or any other issue where citizens represent themselves to the decision makers. Commu-

nity Leagues are recognized by the City of Edmonton as the primary speaking body for the community.

### Recreation and Leisure Programs

Queen Alex supports recreation and leisure programs for all ages. Membership in the Queen Alex entitles you to free swims at Scona Pool, access to Community League skating rinks across the city, and discounts at City of Edmonton sports and fitness facilities (see ad on page 5).

Participants in minor hockey or soccer are required to hold a League membership. Queen Alex falls under the auspices of Southwest Area Two for hockey, and the Southwest zone of the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association. Please visit [www.swat.ab.ca](http://www.swat.ab.ca) and/or [www.swemsa.com](http://www.swemsa.com) for more information.

### Social Activities

Queen Alexandra Community League also supports social activities such as the QUACKS pot-lucks, and an annual members' appreciation dinner.

### Where can I buy my Community League Membership?

**A**t your front door — Canvassers will be going door-to-door selling Community League memberships.

**V**ia the mail — Complete the form on page 6 and return it with your payment to QACL, PO Box 4546, Edmonton AB, T6E 5G4.

**D**rop by Membership Day — Volunteers will be selling memberships on **October 13 from 11am to 2 pm** at the **Queen Alexandra Community Hall** (10425 University Avenue).

If you have any questions about memberships, please contact the Membership Chair at [membership@qacl.ca](mailto:membership@qacl.ca).

## Queen Alexandra Community League

### Mailing Address

PO Box 4546  
Edmonton AB T6E 5G4

### Hall Address

10425 University Avenue

Telephone 439-9046

## 2007-08 Board of Directors

### Executive

#### President

*Ione Challborn*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

*Doug Bailie*

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

*vacant*

#### Secretary

*Myles Kitagawa*

#### Treasurer

*Kim Sanderson*

### Officers of the Board

#### Neighbourhood Planning

*Diane Millar*

#### Membership

*vacant*

#### Building and Grounds

*Ann Brown*

#### Publicity

*Russ Miyagawa*

#### Program

*vacant*

#### Sports

*vacant*

#### Social

*vacant*

#### Hall Rental

*vacant*

# President's Message

Dear Neighbour,

We hope that you've enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to fall activities feeling refreshed and with enthusiasm.

The September QACL newsletter is unique in that it goes to every household in the Queen Alexandra neighbourhood. It goes to members and nonmembers alike. We hope that its arrival is a reminder to current members to renew their membership, and we hope that others will feel inspired to purchase a membership and get involved in league activities.

Last year, board members were active with renovating the hall, neighbourhood planning and development issues, gardening (the sweet-pea fence at Queen Alexandra School), friendship-building and skills-sharing at community potlucks, representing the league at area council meetings, and hosting a member appreciation event. Our swim program and green shack park program are very popular.

We've got a casino in our calendar for January 2008 and we are planning a series of community talks to feature the work and lives of the interesting and knowledgeable people who live in our league. We'll finish renovating the hall this year. Members have told us they want the league to offer some social activities; to protect league green spaces and architectural integrity; and to keep QACL as crime-free as possible.

It will be a busy and exciting year. Join in!

Sincerely

Ione Challborn

## Volunteers Needed

A Community League depends on volunteers who give willingly of their time and talents in an effort to make their community a better place to live.

**Membership Chair** — Responsibilities include co-ordinating the membership drive, and maintaining the membership list. Thanks and best wishes to Kimberly Hagen for her work in this position.

**Casino Volunteers** — Volunteers are needed for the League's biggest fundraising event. Our next Casino will be held January 9 & 10 at the Palace Casino.

If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca).

# Neighbourhood Planning

by Diane Millar, Neighbourhood Planning Chair

Queen Alexandra, as any neighbourhood, is continually evolving. We contain a diversity of people, businesses and buildings and are a mature area with gorgeous boulevard trees and an eclectic mix of housing types, as you know.

Our borders are Calgary Trail South, 109 Street, 70 Avenue and Whyte (82) Avenue.

Close proximity to the U of A and Whyte Avenue has its advantages but also presents some challenges. Three of our borders are major commercial strips. The majority of residences here are apartments and as such, we are already making a significant contribution to increasing density in the inner city as well as curbing urban sprawl.

You have probably noticed a tremendous amount of renovation and redevelopment projects in the area and perhaps right on your block. We, as most older neighbourhoods, are being

asked to accept yet higher density infill on, it seems, a daily basis. This can be a very positive thing but it can also be very stressful if not done properly and with consideration for those of us already here.

As neighbourhood planning chair, I believe common sense, knowledge of the planning process and willingness to communicate our ideas will help to give us a voice in the changing face of the area. Each month in our newsletter, I will report on the specific developments occurring at the time. I hope you will take an interest.

If you have any concerns or questions or advice, whether it be in regards to what is being built next door or of a more general nature, or if you would like to join the planning committee, please feel free to contact me by email (preferred) at [dsmillar@telusplanet.net](mailto:dsmillar@telusplanet.net) or phone at 439-2755.

# Treasurer's Report

by Kim Sanderson, Treasurer

Queen Alexandra Community League remains in a viable financial position. At the end of the last fiscal year, the league had accumulated just over \$75,000 in unrestricted net assets. Additional funds were also available thanks to casino revenues, but these monies are considered "restricted" because they can only be used for designated purposes, such as hall renovations and maintenance.

Revenues for the last year came from several sources, including hall rental fees, membership fees, the operating grant from the City of Edmonton and casino. The major expense continues to be the hall. Casino revenues support most of the ongoing operations for the hall (power, heat, telephone, insurance, maintenance and repairs). Over the last year or so, significant funds (approximately \$150,000) have been allocated to hall renovations, specifically the kitchen, washrooms and some outdoor upgrades. Additional work remains to be done in 2007 and funds have been designated to ensure the completion of these tasks, including the installation of an accessible washroom on the main floor. The league is booked for another casino in the first quarter of 2008.

Detailed financial statements are presented at monthly general meetings for the information of members. The league's fiscal year is the same as the calendar year.

## 2007/08 QACL General Meeting Dates Update

The Queen Alexandra Community League holds a general meeting every month except July, August, and December. All Community League members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Meetings are held upstairs at the Community Hall, and typically begin at 7pm.

While the League has long held

its meetings on the last Tuesday of every month, recent changes in the availability of the executive have resulted in the necessity of selecting alternative dates.

**Watch this space for an updated list of meeting dates. Until then, please contact [info@qacl.ca](mailto:info@qacl.ca) for upcoming meeting dates.**

# Act Locally! Community Leagues & the Active Citizen

by Myles Kitagawa

The rectangular community situated between 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Whyte and 104<sup>th</sup> street and 109<sup>th</sup> is named Queen Alexandra after Queen Alexandra of Denmark, wife of King Edward VII. But as often as not, I like to imagine that it is named for Salome Alexandra, First Queen of Ancient Judea who ruled from 76-67 BC, and was great-grand niece of the Jewish Warrior, Judah Maccabee. It makes the community seem a little more interesting.

Community leagues probably don't fire up your active citizen imagination. They don't make the news like anti-globalization protests or celebrity save-the-seals campaigns. Indeed, you may not have even thought about your community league since you quit playing minor soccer or hockey.

Nonetheless, community leagues are the "diamonds-in-the-rough" of municipal democracy and offer valuable citizenship and community building opportunities far beyond playground programs and the Neighborhood Watch. One hundred and forty-eight of these member-driven, volunteer associations blanket Edmonton fundraising; operating halls, skating rinks, playgrounds; coordinating sports and recreation programs, and community gardens.

Have I lost you yet? Does it sound like the domain of the super-moms and the trying-to-remain-active-while-retired set?

Here's the subtext of the description above: community leagues acquire and control assets in order to provide services and programs to their members. What those services and programs are, can have a lot to do with who is participating in the community league.

**"Ask not what your community league has to offer you, ask what might your community league offer, if it had your participation."**

The Queen Alexandra Community League included a young man who felt that it is very important that artists and activists have a venue to express themselves. And, oddly, Queen Alexandra Hall was used to host a variety of independent music events, alternative media exhibitions, and teach-ins on matters such as the effects of globalization. Queen Alexandra Community League also includes certain other unnamed individuals who are preoccupied with global climate change - and the league has participated in ClimateWise, a climate change public outreach pilot program.

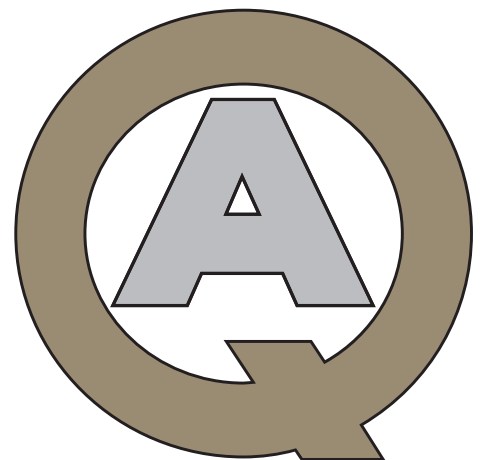
Ask not what your community league has to offer you, ask what might your community league

offer, if it had your participation.

In addition to having input into the substance of programming, community leagues also offer the prospective active citizen an excellent training ground in important skills such as board governance and running effective meetings. And as a key stakeholder in municipal issues, community league representatives are often called upon to advocate before Edmonton City Council, the Subdivision Development and Appeals Board, and other municipal committees on matters vital of quality of life.

Everything you need to know about acting locally in the neighborhood you live in is at <http://www.efcl.org/>.

*In addition to being the Secretary of the Queen Alexandra Community League, Myles Kitagawa is a prominent local environmentalist and Director of the Toxics Watch Society of Alberta. This column was originally published in See Magazine.*



# EDMONTON



## City of Edmonton Community League Wellness Program

Present your valid Community League Membership Card at any City of Edmonton sports and fitness facility and enjoy great admission discounts!

**For more information, please call 944-7744  
or visit [www.edmonton.ca/wellness](http://www.edmonton.ca/wellness).**



September is membership month

Let's get active!

[www.efcl.org](http://www.efcl.org)



*Join Your Local Community League*

Edmonton Federation of  
Community Leagues 

# 2007-08 Queen Alexandra Community League Membership Form

## Contact Information

Name of 1<sup>st</sup> Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> Adult \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Type

- Family with two adults — \$20
- Family with single adult — \$10
- Individual — \$10
- Senior Couple — \$10
- Senior Individual — \$5

## Children

Name of child (first and last)	Date of Birth (Y/M/D)	M/F
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Would you like a door sticker?  Yes  No      Number of skate tags required: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a swim pass?  Yes  No

Please mail your completed membership form along with a cheque or money order (no cash please), payable to Queen Alexandra Community League, to:

**Queen Alexandra Community League, PO Box 4546, Edmonton AB T6E 5G4**

For more information, please contact the Membership Chair at [membership@qacl.ca](mailto:membership@qacl.ca).

We are also looking for individuals willing to canvass their block to sell memberships. It's a great way to reconnect with old friends and meet new neighbours. Please email [membership@qacl.ca](mailto:membership@qacl.ca) if you can help out

*Information collected on this form is used solely for Queen Alexandra Community League purposes and will not be sold or given to any third party.*