



Belgravians Barb Clarke and Oscar (above) offer a gentle and humorous reminder for fellow residents on page nine.

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Belgravia Community Hall:

11540 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0G1

Next deadline:

May issue: April 15

BCL is a member of the Edmonton
Federation of Community Leagues.
Learn more at www.efcl.org

Made in Belgravia: *Edible Gardens*

April 22, 7 – 9 p.m. at the BCL Hall

Join the *growing* movement! Celebrate Earth Day by learning what it takes to make your yard productive as well as beautiful, and enjoy healthy, organic food you harvest yourself. Experienced, novice and wannabe gardeners all welcome. We'll talk about:

- **What grows here** — you'll be amazed by the variety of edibles grown in Belgravia
- **Getting started** — garden prep and timing, buying seeds, growing in a raised bed
- **Garden aesthetics** — tips to create a stunning garden, front or back

RSVP to programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca by **April 20**. BCL members: \$5; non-BCL members: \$10.

Interested in having/becoming a garden mentor? If gardening is new to you, we'll do our best to match you with an experienced gardener who can offer inspiration, advice and support.

Editor's message

Josie Hammond-Thrasher



Happy... um... spring, folks!
For a brief moment last week, I reveled in a glimpse of the fertile soil in my garden and my patio full of promises of hot summer days and long summer nights. Alas, a fresh carpet of snow smothered my moment a mere day later — something we've all come to expect of Edmonton's spring season.

We've reached that time of the year when we can't be sure from one day to the next whether we'll be reaching for our rakes or our shovels, sowing seeds or sanding our sidewalks, taking off our snow tires or putting on our Yak-trax.

As the April sun valiantly tries to melt away the ice clinging to the coolest corners of our yards, we hope you will join us for our April 22 Made in Belgravia session, *Edible Gardens* with Barb Krahn. Barb will follow her session with a new column, *Garden Notebook*, that will appear in the Belgravian during the growing months.

Springing up in this issue of the Belgravian is a new *Meet Your Neighbour* column, which will be a regular feature in future issues. This column will introduce you to some of the talented and diverse residents who call our neighbourhood home. My sincere thanks to Pat Galbraith who allowed me to shine the spotlight on her this month.

As always, please email your thoughts to me at editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca. BIG thanks to Belgravia residents Sybille Wunsum, Susanne Rowe, John Hunter and Barb Clarke who contributed to our April issue along with our regular community champs, Jeanette Boman, Kevin Taft and Dianne Gillespie.

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Letter to the editor

Recognizing best building practices

Sybille Wunsum

Having built our house a few years ago, I know that building can be stressful not only for the owner, but also for the surrounding neighbours. Currently, there are four building sites within the radius of a block from our home.

While it is exciting to see this rejuvenation of the neighbourhood, so many projects have given us a chance to compare building practices and think about which ones are preferable from the perspectives of both a home owner and the neighbours.

One of the more impressive construction projects is by De Waal Developments on 75 Avenue and 116 Street for the following reasons:

1. they inform the neighbours about what they are doing
2. a sign identifying the builder doing the project is posted

3. a safety fence was erected around the construction site as soon as the project started
4. their trades have been lined up most efficiently so changes in the building progress are seen on a daily basis
5. the building site is organized and clean with a portable toilet on site
6. the construction workers are respectful and friendly to people walking by, especially school kids on their way to school

By recognizing these best building practices and the builders who do them, maybe we can influence the future projects that will be inevitably planned in Belgravia.

Editor's note: If you have a 'best building practice' story to share with your fellow Belgravians, please email it to editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca



Chris Hammond-Thrasher took 23 people on a journey into the world of computer criminals, identity thieves and fraudsters during our March Made in Belgravia session, **Computer Security through a Hacker's Eye**. Thanks to Chris for helping Belgravians improve their fraud awareness during Fraud Prevention Month.

President's update

Jeanette Boman

Last year about this time Don Grimble, then chair of the Belgravia Community Plan Committee (BCPC), encouraged us to come up with a set of criteria the BCL could use for responding to Applications for Rezoning or Development Projects involving a variance or discretionary decision in Belgravia.

Typically, the notice that neighbours living within a 60 m radius of such developments get from the City is also received by the BCL. The challenge for the BCL is to provide a community-wide perspective and hence, the importance of having some criteria about the development projects we hoped for in Belgravia.

Approximately 14 BCL directors and BCPC members staged a charette where we drew up a draft list of 'what we wanted' and 'what we didn't want' in future development and building projects in Belgravia. We hoped this could eventually be a guide to share with anyone wishing to build in Belgravia.

And now we need to know what the larger community thinks about this draft. Having community-wide support for these 'wants' and 'don't wants' will strengthen our position as the community stakeholder in decisions made about developer applications by the City Current Planners.

This draft, Principles for Densification in Belgravia, is published below.

Please read through it. Are we on the mark? Have we missed anything? Are we speaking for the majority of Belgravian residents? Talk to your neighbours. See what they think. The more who contact us, the more confident we can be about this list.

Email comments to info@belgraviaedmonton.ca. Or, put your comments right on the page and drop them off at 11532 74 Avenue.

Thank you — we appreciate your time for doing this and value your input.

Draft: Principles for Densification in Belgravia

Welcome designs that allow:

- sunlight & sky
- peace & quiet
- backyard privacy
- trees & green space
- off-street parking (preferably underground)
- more biking, walking and use of public transit
- traffic planning around, into & out of Belgravia
- long-term resident homeowners who care about the community
- sustainable, green building practices
- good quality, well-built, new buildings
- densification that takes in neighbour's feedback
- garage suites, legal basement suites, garden suites, & other infill options
- community diversity
- aging in place opportunities
- sense of place & belonging
- community-oriented, infill development that contributes to a feeling of community

Avoid designs that promote:

- tall buildings & blank walls that block sun & sky for neighbours
- noise (from traffic, loud parties, heating or air conditioning units in neighbouring buildings)
- balconies & windows of new infill invading neighbours' privacy
- loss of mature trees or parkland
- on-street parking
- more cars in the community
- new developments without resolving traffic & parking issues
- rental houses with absentee landlords
- energy inefficient buildings
- low quality, 'mirror image,' 'bunker-like' structures
- infill just for the "sake of it"
- illegal basement suites, rooming houses
- only residents of a certain demographic (age, family type or income level)
- reasons for older residents to leave community
- neighbourhood alienation (people who don't care about the community or their neighbours)
- random development that destroys the sense of community in Belgravia

Synthesis of the BCL Board & Belgravia Community Planning Committee (BCPC) charette, March 19, 2014

Community garden needs volunteers



The volunteer gardeners at the Green & Gold Community Garden, on the UofA South Campus, are making plans for their seventh gardening season. The garden is an initiative of the University's School of Public Health and Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences. The garden is totally volunteer run; virtually all of the seeds, plants and equipment used are donated.

The vegetables, herbs and flowers are spray-free (no pesticides or artificial fertilizers are used). Anyone is welcome to purchase their vegetables at the garden and all of the money raised — that's 100% — goes to the Tubahumurize Association, a non-profit organization in Rwanda that provides socially and economically

marginalized women with vocational training, counseling, life-skills coaching, health care education, and opportunities for sustainable income generating activities. To date, the garden has raised over \$100,000 for the Tubahumurize project.

As they gear up for the 2015 gardening season, they're looking for new volunteers to join them at the garden. Both novice & experienced gardeners are welcome. If you aren't interested in gardening, but would like to help in other ways (distributing produce, promoting the garden, donating seeds or garden tools), please email gsgarden@ualberta.ca or phone 780-492-4087.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSION

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. – noon

EPL, Strathcona branch (8331-104 St.)

Visit us at greengoldgarden.com for more info.

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Hall renewal news

Kevin Taft

On March 25, 2015 Steve Young, MLA Edmonton Riverview handed over the \$200,000 Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) cheque for our hall renewal project to Jeanette Boman and key fundraising members of the Hall Renewal Committee: Kevin Klein (BCL VP) who along with Nicole Klein hosted a major fundraising kick-off event in their home last May and Jonathan Sharek who along with Michael Cohen have assumed the lion's share of completing the grant application forms.

Knowing the CFEP application had been successful a couple of months ago was great. Getting the money and putting it in the bank is even better!



Steve Young, MLA Edmonton Riverview & Jeanette Boman, BCL President

Jane's Walk: the Belgravia Walk-ie Talk-ie

Jane's Walk is an event that takes place annually on the first weekend of May to coincide with Jane Jacobs' birthday (1916-2006). Since 2007, these walks have gained popularity and have taken place worldwide!

Jane Jacobs was known for her focus as an urban activist, encouraging people to get out to explore their neighbourhoods and to meet their neighbours. Please visit www.janeswalk.org to learn more.

Belgravia had its first Jane's Walk in 2013 with a wonderful group of about 35 people, aged 3 to 73! Then

last year, we had about 20 very hardy folks come out despite the chilly weather. Let's keep the momentum going — new features will be shared this year.

The Belgravia Walk-ie Talk-ie will be at **2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3**. The meeting place will be the **Belgravia Arts Park** at 74 Ave. & 115 St. Remember to dress for the weather as the walk will be about 1 – 1½ hours long.

See you there!

Susanne Rowe, Jane's Walk Leader



Jane Jacobs at the White Horse Tavern in 1961 (Credit: Cervin Robinson)

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avenue —2015— NEIGHBOURHOODS SURVEY

If you think Belgravia deserves to be
on the 10 Best Neighbourhoods in
Edmonton list, please take a moment
to fill out the survey.

Visit [https://banister.ab.ca/
2015EdmontonBestNeighbourhood
Survey/](https://banister.ab.ca/2015EdmontonBestNeighbourhoodSurvey/)

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Planning and place

Dianne Gillespie

As you know, the Belgravia Community Planning Committee ran a short survey in February to gauge community members' awareness and understanding of the McKernan/Belgravia Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and the Infill Roadmap. The results are in:

Total # responses = 144

- 62.3% of respondents indicated they are familiar with the ARP
- 26.7% of respondents indicated they are familiar with the Infill Roadmap

Q. 2 - Responding to the question "What do you like/dislike about the ARP?" the main themes that emerged include:

- Disliked the consultation process
- Traffic issues
- Plan has no teeth to implement

"The consultation process was unsatisfactory. As each meeting of the three that occurred, the emphasis changed from one (thing) to the next."

"At the city meetings I went to (much) of our input was not really used in the plan."

- Density is positive
- Want more commercial opportunities
- Density near the periphery makes sense

"I accept the ARP's broad directions but it has serious flaws."

Q. 3 – Responding to the question "What do you like/dislike about the Infill Roadmap?" the main themes that emerged include:

- Consultation was poor
- Should be community specific
- No overall vision
- Does not consider current home owners

"Edmonton is planned road by road and development by development without any clear and innovative overall vision."

"Again, it sounds like a good idea in practice; collaboration is no more than information giving. There needs to be overt evidence that people's ideas were acted upon."

"I dislike that it is pro-developer and proposes infill will reduce the property values of remaining homes."

- Infill is good for the city
- Good for commercial opportunities

- Good for diversity of homes

"I like the idea of increasing density to limit urban sprawl"

"Like the plan to enable or encourage new built forms so that more types of families can live in Belgravia – not just single family homes and apartments."

Q. 5 – Responding to the question "What information would you like to learn more about?"

- Development processes
- Zoning
- Bylaws
- Transportation planning
- Details of the various plans
- Infill
- Learn more about other cities and world examples of planning
- Sustainability/Walkability/Green Building
- Community building/Social issues/ Community engagement
- How to improve neighbourhood – developer relations

In summary, BCL residents for the most part are not opposed to the spirit or intent of the plans but many residents do feel the implementation of the plans has not been respectful of residents' opinions.

As we all know, change can be hard work. The Belgravia Community Planning Committee would like to facilitate some learning around the topics listed above in order to become more proactive regarding the changes proposed for our community.

Please email planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca with your suggestions about how you would like these topics presented (e.g., special section on the BCL website with planning info., separate BCPC planning info. pamphlet, planning workshops, etc.).

Did you know...

**"only one of a Secondary Suite, Garage Suite or Garden Suite may be developed in conjunction with a principal Dwelling."
(Zoning bylaw 12800, 87.11)**

Learn more at http://webdocs.edmonton.ca/infraplan/zoningbylaw/bylaw_12800.htm

Planning cont...

Planning announcements

The March 16 Public Hearing regarding the subdivision of city lots and Garage and Garden Suites extended to all single house lots (not just corner lots) has been pushed back to **April 13**.

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4 wheels 10 - 11 a.m.

2 wheels 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A City of Edmonton program
for participants of all ages! Must have
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Doggy doo's & dont's

Barb Clarke submitted this poem as a gentle reminder to residents to please clean up after your dogs — keep Belgravia clean and attractive for everyone!

DOGGY DOO

Julie H-P

I know it sounds disgusting, but it's a thing you have to do,
If you live with man's best friend, you have to pick up poo!
They come in different sizes, the poo's AND the dogs,
That's why I chose a little pooch, I don't want to pick up logs!

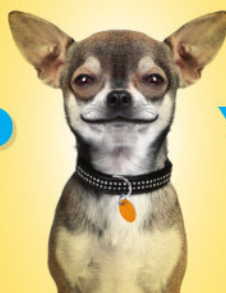
Now if your doggy likes to run to do his poop in peace,
Finding it to pick it up is frustrating to say the least.
In the winters frosty air, it's not so difficult as it seems,
The poop will show you where it is, just look out for the steam.

I get in quite a pickle if my dog poops in a place,
Where other dogs have done their business, a dilemma I must face.
Poop Identification, is it mines, or is it not,
Why not pick up more than one, it helps out quite a lot!

Now the most important thing of all, is if you own a dog,
When they go to toilet, poop scooping is your job.
Don't ignore the doggy mess, it may end up on someone's shoe,
Make sure you always pick it up, the responsibility is down to YOU!

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Bylaw questions? Ask Vadim!

I'd like to introduce myself as the Bylaw Officer for your area. My name is Vadim and I am a Municipal Enforcement Officer with the Community Standards Branch of the City of Edmonton's Community Services Department. Our branch investigates and enforces a variety of bylaws that contribute to the livability of this city and your local community.

As well as enforcement, we also like to engage the community and offer opportunities to educate citizens of our services. This education can not only empower residents to understand what constitutes valid bylaw complaints, but can also educate people regarding what are the standards and expectations from the community to prevent them from becoming the subject of a bylaw complaint.

Outlined below are just some of the more common complaint types we investigate. If you would like more information on the various complaint types and how I can help you as a Municipal Enforcement Officer, please don't hesitate to contact me via the information below.

Community Standards Bylaw 14600

- **Untidy and Unsightly properties (Nuisance on Land)** - means land that shows signs of a serious disregard for general maintenance and upkeep. Or excessive accumulation of materials or any loose litter, garbage or refuse located anywhere on the land or public property adjacent to private land. Examples include but are not limited to;
 - Messy garbage storage locations. Appliances, furniture and excessive accumulation of loose litter debris on the property.
 - Damaged, dismantled or derelict vehicles or motor vehicles, whether insured or registered or not.
 - Smelly or messy compost heaps.
 - Unkempt grass or weeds.
 - Production of excessive dust, dirt or smoke.
 - Production of any generally offensive odours.
 - Any tree, shrub, other type of vegetation or any structure that interferes or could interfere with any public work or utility; that obstructs any sidewalk adjacent to the land; or that impairs the visibility required for safe traffic flow at any intersection adjacent to the land.
- **Snow on Sidewalk** – means clearing all sidewalks adjacent to land owned or occupied clear of all snow

and ice. Please note: the 48hr rule is a courtesy that is extended by policy only. It is not a legislative provision. Officers have the discretion to act accordingly when aggravating or mitigating circumstances arise.

- **Unsightly Buildings (Nuisance on a Building)** - means buildings showing signs of a serious disregard for general maintenance and upkeep. Examples include;
 - Damage to the building.
 - Any graffiti displayed on the building.
 - Any rot or other deterioration within the building; and any inappropriate infiltration of air, moisture or water into the building due to peeling, unpainted or untreated surfaces, missing shingles or other roofing materials, broken or missing windows or doors, or any other hole or opening in the building.

Business Licence Bylaw 13138

- Enforcement of unlicensed businesses and businesses which are licensed but not following their licensing conditions.

Waste Management Bylaw 13777

- This bylaw regulates what kinds of items can be set out for collection, and the manner in which they are set out.

I hope you've found the above information helpful as the purpose of this letter was to increase awareness of our bylaws and the services we provide.

This is also a great opportunity for you to ask questions or alert me to any chronic offenders or serious issues in your neighbourhood.

Individual complaints must still be filed through 311 so that they get assigned correctly and statistics are properly calculated.

I look forward to working with you to help keep Edmonton a safe, clean, livable city.

Sincerely,
Vadim

Contact Vadim

Phone: 780-496-5241

Email: Meo88@edmonton.ca

Research study seeks participants



The members of the Child and Adolescent Research Group (CARG) at the University of Alberta Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine have many studies going on, and they're always looking for children with and without disabilities to be involved in the research. CARG members come from a variety of backgrounds including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology, and they study topics such as communication, motor control, social development, participation in everyday activities among others.

Children who participate in research projects may benefit by:

- Exposure to different types of professions and technologies
- Learning about the scientific process through active participation

- Practicing and developing social skills, and expressing opinions and ideas
- Boosting self-confidence, self-esteem and sense of accomplishment
- Contributing towards the care, treatment and well-being of others
- Playing a role in the advancement of science

An example of one CARG member's study: The Assistive Technology Lab is looking for ways to help children who have physical disabilities do play and problem-solving activities – using a Lego Mindstorm Robot! The first step in the study is to see what kinds of play and problem-solving scenarios typically developing children create. Children are given a set of toys, the Lego Mindstorms Robot and colorful switches that allow them to control the robot. The findings of this study will be applied to help develop play activities with the robot for children who have severe physical disabilities and would not be able to manipulate toys otherwise. Currently, we are recruiting child volunteers who do not have physical disabilities and who are between the ages of three and seven years old.

If you know a child or adolescent who would like to participate in this or other research studies, check out the CARG website at uab.ca/CARG. Parents can join the research registry and when a study comes up that fits their child's criteria, the parent will be notified and can choose to participate or not at that time.



Hawrelak Park photo submitted by Belgravia resident John Hunter

Meet your neighbour: Pat Galbraith



Belgravia is not only home to an eclectic arts park, it's also home to a number of Edmonton's renowned artists. Pat Galbraith has lived in Belgravia since 1967 — almost half a century! Her house on 72 Avenue is easy to spot, with a boulder-sized, concrete sculpture resting in her front yard. Named Alpha and based on the letter "A," the sculpture that greets neighbours is one of Pat's earliest works.

"Years ago, I thought of sculpture as the most honest form of art. There is no room for deception when you can view a work from every possible angle. I've since grown to understand that truth takes many forms," she says.

Pat has been honing her skills with many materials for over 30 years. As a sculptor, Pat's favourite media are marble and bronze. As a painter, watercolour is her medium of choice.

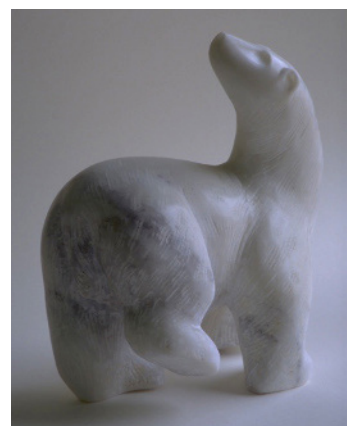
A respected adjudicator of international ice and snow competitions for more than 20 years, Pat is known for being observant and fair. She has judged competitions all over Canada, including Edmonton's Ice on Whyte Festival, and as far away as Japan.

"The transparency of ice challenges the sculptor to consider layers of perception and to use the reflection and refraction of light. In its visual purity, ice celebrates the act of creation," she says.

Pat's fascination with design and shape is also evident in her Belgravia home, which she planned with her beloved late-husband, Bernie. Her bright, accessible, energy-efficient house sits on the site of their former 1950s semi-bungalow.

"The kitchen island was inspired by an ice reception counter, which I saw in Ottawa during *Winterlude*," she says. "Occasionally you get the opportunity to stretch your abilities. For me, it was being able to design some aspects of my home."

Next time you're at the arts park, head south to 72 Ave. and 115 St. to check out Alpha and a few of Pat's other works displayed outside her gorgeous home.



10 Questions with Pat Galbraith

1) What do you like best about Belgravia?

The residents

2) What's your favourite Edmonton restaurant?

Continental Treat on Whyte Avenue

3) What's your favourite vacation spot?

To learn, Turkey. To relax, the Yucatan.

4) What's the one item you can't live without?

Imagination

5) What's your biggest pet peeve?

Dishonesty

6) What's your guilty snack-food pleasure?

I never feel guilty about snack foods — I just enjoy them.

7) Who would you most like to be stuck in an elevator with?

Bernie Galbraith (my late husband) and the Dali Lama. The conversation would be amazing!

8) What super power would you love to have?

I'd love to fly or teleport

9) What would your personal theme song be?

What a Wonderful World, sung by Louis Armstrong

10) What are your words to live by?

"What if..."