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Belgravia Community Hall

11540 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0G1

BCL is a member of the Edmonton
Federation of Community Leagues
(www.efcl.org)

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Please remember to recycle this newsletter.

Next Submission Deadline

March 17 , 2017

Banner Picture: Belgravia School students
enjoying winter

Made in Belgravia

Whisky Tasting 202

More than year ago, whisky enthusiasts Michael Robb and Katherine Irwin presented Whisky 101, an introductory tasting of some of Scotland's finest whiskies.

This year, we're going global. Whisky 202 will include whiskies from Japan, the United States and around the world. Join us as we discuss the ingredients, the distillation processes and the flavour profiles of several whiskies.

We'll also talk about why this spirit is enjoying an explosive international renaissance ... and we'll do that by sampling some of the finest drams on the planet. The session fee will be as reasonable as possible as ways to minimize the costs are currently being explored.

When: March 29, 2017
(7 - 9 pm)

Where: BCL Upper Hall

To RSVP and for more information, contact:
mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca



2016/2017 BCL Board & Related Committee Chairs

Past President	Jeanette Boman	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
President	Kevin Klein	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President	Heather Scherer	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Community Connections		
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2. Belgravia Elementary Sch. Liaison	Michael Cohen	
3. South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition BCL Rep	Bob Kamp	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca
UofA Comm Consultation	Cory Dawson	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca

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Thank You.

President's Message

By the time you are reading this message from the BCL Board, Family Day will have come and gone. While February 20, 2017 was formally designated as Family Day in Alberta, the BCL is oriented to supporting families of all ages and stages of life every day of the year!

As families grow and develop, so does our community. We are proud to see our new hall being used for playschool, Zumba, Boot Camp, Yoga, Strength and Stretch classes, Taekwondo, Water Colour Painting Classes and Soap Stone Carving classes not to mention celebrating birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. While the season was short, the rink supports skating and shinny and our playgrounds are second to none in the City.

And speaking of being second to none, the BCL has one of the highest membership rates of the 157 community leagues in Edmonton. From the 2016 Municipal Census, Belgravia is composed of 920 households (636 which are owned and 210, rented & 74 not known). Of those households, 415 (and counting!) are members of the BCL. That's 45% ... nearly half of all Belgravia households.

That's something that makes us happy because we're here to help families, build community relationships and keep you informed about what's happening in Belgravia and throughout the City.

Check out the changes we've made to the BCL website (belgraviaedmonton.ca). You'll see how in one easy 'click' you can access current and past Belgravian Newsletters. You'll also notice that the BCL Cooperative Playschool has now merged their web information on the BCL site.



Tae Kwon Do at the Community Hall

WINDSOR PARK PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday March 16, 2017
5:00 - 7:00 pm
Windsor Park Preschool
11840 - 87 Avenue

Windsor Park Preschool offers a learning-through-play program for three and four year olds. Come join us at the open house to learn more about the preschool, tour the space and meet our wonderful teacher. There will also be fun activities for the children. Refreshments will be provided.



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Family Day Celebration

The community Family Day Celebration was a huge success with indoor and outdoor activities enjoyed by all. There was too much melting to hold the planned hockey game but the large puddles certainly added an extra element to the kick sledging.



Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL)

Update on Good Construction Practices

The 2015 EFCL Construction Issues Report kick started many city initiatives to improve infill construction practices. Slowly we are seeing improvements because of our work. However,

- virtually nothing has been done to protect private property owners from damages due to excavations close to the side property line
- Council has not increased the side yards in Mature Neighbourhoods.
- Safety Codes Officers have not agreed to require shoring and secure fencing for low density housing excavations

The EFCL concerns around unsafe, damaging excavation sites have been taken to the Provincial Safety Codes Council. In order to take action, the Safety Codes Council needs to know about recent (2016 and 2017) construction problems.

Your help is needed! We want to hear about the good and bad experiences. Please send your stories, pictures and addresses of construction sites in 2016-17 to Bev.Zubot@efcl.org.

We need to know about your experiences with dangerous, open excavations, soil movement or loss by water & resulting building damage, excavations that are too wide, trespassing by machinery, materials and people, construction materials placed on neighbouring property, damage to public property such as curbs, sidewalks & boulevard trees and any other damage to private property. These stories and photos will be summarized by the EFCL and submitted to the Safety Codes Council.

On April 5, 2017 the Council Urban Planning Committee will be receiving a status report on the infill Compliance Team. Contact Bev.Zubot@efcl.org if you wish to speak about your construction concerns or contribute to the EFCL's presentation to the Council.

Stay tuned for future opportunities to address Infill Construction Practices at efcl.org

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues



Events in the Community

Total Body Tension Release Class

Are you an athlete, a regular or an occasional exerciser? Spring is fast approaching so it's time to start gearing up for the spring/summer sport and outdoor activities season. This class will help you become more flexible, strong, and more physically balanced to avoid injuries, increase efficiency of movement and to help you feel more at ease while you are active or at rest.

With 25 years of experience teaching release and movement exercise classes, Dr. Mike Daniel D.C. will take you through the most recent stretch and release techniques along with basic foam roller or ball exercises to help you free up tight joints and muscles.

When: 10 one hour Classes - March 1 to May 10, 2017 (missing April 5th) on Wednesday's at 7:30 pm.

Where: Belgravia Community League Lower Hall

Fees: \$130 per session for BCL members, \$150 for non-members

Contact Annette at programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca to register.

A minimum of 8 participants are needed to run the program.

Family/Toddler Time

This is a time where the lower hall is open to let your children run around and explore different toys on Sunday afternoons (please bring some to share). Family skate is on at the same time so you can drop in after a family skate to warm up. The more families that attend the more fun we will have.

When: Sundays 3-5pm

Cost: \$5 per family

Contact: Heather Scherer for more info, no registration required.

Cardio, Strength and Stretch

A combination of lower and no-impact cardio, strength and flexibility, core and balance training. An ideal class for those wanting to stay active or those wanting motivation to exercise in a supportive safe environment close to home.

The class is designed and modified for the participants needs/injuries and fitness levels.

Instructor: Elise Ure

When: February 3 - April 7 1 - 2 PM

Where: Belgravia Community League Upper Hall

Cost: BCL members - \$80 for session, \$15 for drop-in Non-Members - \$100/session, \$20 for drop-in

To register contact Annette at programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Community Yoga:

This baby friendly class is open to all (you don't need to have a baby, you just have to be ok with it not being totally 'zen'). This class is perfect if you have always been interested in trying yoga but aren't confident enough or prepared to go to a yoga studio.

The class is suitable for all yoga levels and will focus on building strength for the whole body. You will need your own yoga mat and a blanket for the baby to lie/sit/play on. After the class anyone is welcome to join a free walk in the community.

Cost: \$100 BCL/associate members (\$15 drop-in); \$120 non-members (\$20 drop-in)

Contact: Tonya Yonge for more info and to register:

communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca

When: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am

City of Edmonton Flood Mitigation Public Engagement

Many of you will be aware of the City's Flood Map that was recently shared with Edmonton residents. The City is now in the process of soliciting feedback from the community on how they would like the City to deal with flood mitigation.

The first step was a presentation to community leagues. City staff attended the February 8 Belgravia Community League meeting to present their 2017 discussion guide. The discussion guide is available at https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/utilities/flood-prevention.aspx, scroll down to Have Your Say.

Whether or not you have had drainage problems in or around your home, residents are invited to provide feedback through an online survey that is open until March 10, 2017. It can be accessed from the website referenced above.

Note: Notification that all Community League Members were welcome to attend the presentation was sent out in an E-Blast as the presentation was not scheduled until after the last newsletter was sent out. If you aren't on the E-Blast list contact Jeanette Boman at pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca.)

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUMMER DAYCAMP 

ONCE UPON A TIME



DATE	TIME	AGES	COURSE CODE	COST
Monday-Friday July 10-14, 2017	9:00am-11:30am	3-5 years	596564	\$82

Belgravia Community League
11540—73 Avenue
Once upon a time there was a magical kingdom where fairy tales came true. In our kingdom we sing magical songs, dance with our friends, and re-enact classic stories. Let's all make believe together in this program fit for everyone. Participants are welcome to come dressed in their favorite fairy tale costume.
Registration opens March 15, 2017
To Register:

- Call 311
- Online at ereg.edmonton.ca
- In person at any City of Edmonton Recreation Leisure Centre

Thank you to the Belgravia Community League for access to their facility





Belgravia Cooperative Playschool is now accepting registrations for three and four year olds for the 2017-18 school year.

Located in the newly renovated Belgravia Hall, the not-for-profit preschool program has been serving the area for more than 40 years.

Registration forms available at:
www.belgraviaedmonton.ca
or by contacting:
playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca.

Belgravia Neighbourhood Renewal

An open house was held by the City on February 2, 2017 to go over the plans for Belgravia Neighbourhood Renewal. Residents then had until February 16 to provide feedback on the plans. The City will be compiling the comments received in their What We Heard document.

The extension of the Saskatchewan Drive shared use pathway, to connect the Belgravia Road pedestrian bridge to the existing shared use path that ends at the top of the Keillor Road trail, was the most contentious change proposed. A significant number of comments were received for and against this change so the City is still accepting comments on this issue.

You can provide feedback to the City on the Saskatchewan Drive shared use trail at :

buildinggreatneighbourhoods@edmonton.ca

and if you wish you can copy the community league at belgraviarenewal@belgraviaedmonton.ca



Belgravia School Winter Walk

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Meet Your Neighbour - Wendy Davis

Long-time Belgravia resident Wendy Davis came to Edmonton after growing up in India in between schooling in England. Her father, a British judge in India from 1914 to 1947, was a friend to Ghandi. He mastered twenty-two dialects as well as Urdu and Hindi, and had to be able to write in the historical language of Sanskrit. As a girl, Wendy was always loved animals, and besides having gazelles and ponies, dogs and monkeys, her father also kept birds: canaries, carrier pigeons, partridges and parrots. Wendy even reared an orphaned kestrel. Today she breeds roller canaries.

Wendy arrived in Edmonton from Scotland in 1974, after the death of her father, at the invitation of Professor Len Allbon to take a degree and teach in the Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, at the University of Alberta. Later she worked as an occupational therapist at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital on Whyte Avenue and Century Park and lived in Belgravia Apartments. Only when she retired did she buy her house on 118A Street, rented out her basement to students and began visits to India to see friends.

Wendy also began to write. Her first book, *Aids to Make You Able*, outlined ideas to encourage the handicapped to be independent. It included an introduction by HRH Prince Philip, was published in 1977 and reissued in 1981. Her next book, *Dal & Rice*, a memoir of life in India between the wars, was published in 2009 by McGill-Queens University Press. In 2013, she contributed to Edmonton's 40 Below Anthology. She is now working on a piece about her heritage weeping birch tree, which graces her front yard.



"Canada uncorked me," she remarks. Before arriving here, she "couldn't say boo to a goose." With kind neighbours, friends and colleagues, she became active in the Alpine Club of Canada, Edmonton Branch. Now she keeps active with memberships in the Northern Alberta Cage Bird Society, the Canadian Authors Association, Images Photo Club, and attends ELLA every spring. Wendy says she "couldn't survive" if not for her friends and former tenants who help her in many ways: with care for her birds, help with shopping and controlling the mice who love her birdseed.

She misses Mark at his pharmacy, who kindly introduced her to a Dutch lady to help translate bird medications from Holland.

When Wendy retired, she brought a pair of roller canaries from Scotland. This is when she began to breed canaries, which were familiar childhood birds and are exquisite singers. Wendy feeds the wild birds in her yard, walks the neighbourhood regularly and does aquacise classes twice a week at the university. She is an inspiration to all who know her. At 88 years old, Wendy says, "you must enjoy everything while you can contribute."

--by Katherine Koller

