



Belgravians Denise Radford, Linda Stover, Marie Walker and Sylvia Forrow enjoy a weeding bee at the Arts Park in 2011. We need to grow our list of volunteer gardeners — please sign-up to become a Belgravia weedbuster! See below.

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Belgravia Community Hall:

11540 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0G1

Next deadline:

June issue: May 15

BCL is a member of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

Learn more at www.efcl.org

Visit us online at belgraviaedmonton.ca

Follow us on Twitter @BelgraviaYEG

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Nature calls

Ken Goble

Within our fine community we have a jewel – the ARTS Park, located at 115 Street and 74 Avenue. It opened in 2006 in conjunction with the City under a Partners and Parks agreement. They provide the land and we provide the upkeep. It's a "passive park" enjoyed by all age groups. It hosts an open space with winding gravel paths, a labyrinth for quiet contemplation and, of course, the wildflower and shrub beds.

The City cuts the grass but the community is responsible for maintaining the paths, trimming the labyrinth, trimming the shrubs and weeding the beds. Marie Walker and her team of volunteers have been maintaining the park for many years — now we need to build up our pool of volunteers again. If we can get a dozen or so helpers, we could draw from them so each individual wouldn't have to go out to every work-bee through the growing season.

So if you have some experience, would like to learn more about authentic Alberta wildflowers or simply want to enjoy some good clean fun in the dirt, come join us. Please call Ken at 780-435-1778 or email facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca for info. or to volunteer.

Editor's message

Josie Hammond-Thrasher



What do photography, African drumming, composting and addiction recovery have in common? They're all upcoming workshop topics in our Made in Belgravia series.

Made in Belgravia started in February 2014 as an opportunity for people in the community with a variety of skills, talents and hobbies to teach and learn from each other.

This series has become so popular with neighbours that we're able to offer three different workshops at the hall this month. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy our local learning series yet, be sure to sign-up! And if you have an idea for a Made in Belgravia workshop, please contact Debby at programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Another exciting event in May is the special screening of Belgravia filmmaker Eva Colmers' new shortfilm 2.57k. Eva is featured in this issue's *Meet your neighbour* column on page 10, along with details about her film. Join Eva on May 24 at METRO Cinema at the Garneau Theatre — it would be wonderful to see a contingent of Belgravians cheering on their neighbour's achievement!

With so many fun and interesting events happening in and around our community, I've introduced an *Events calendar* in this issue to help you keep track — tear it out and tack it onto your fridge to make sure you don't miss out on what's going on (see page nine).

As promised, this issue also includes Barb Krahn's fabulous new *Garden notebook* column, which will appear in the Belgravian during the growing months. Be sure to check out Barb's spring gardening resolutions on page six.

For up-to-the-minute BCL news, visit us on Facebook (BelgraviaEdmonton), Twitter (@BelgraviaYEG) and on the web at belgraviaedmonton.ca

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| 2. Belgravia Elementary School Liaison | David Shanks | daveshanks@me.com |
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| 4. UofA Comm. Consultation (UACC) | Cory Dawson | info@belgraviaedmonton.ca |

President's update

Jeanette Boman

There are not too many streets in Belgravia without a building project underway. With more building development permits each month, a couple of rezoning applications underway and Council's decision to allow 50 foot lots and larger to be split as well as permitting garage or garden suites throughout the city, the number of building projects will only continue to grow. And another major one of course starting this summer is our new hall.

Even more exciting — and maybe even a little breathtaking — is knowing that Belgravia's roads and sidewalks are scheduled for renewal in two year's time. Disruptive? Yes! But the short-term pain for new sidewalks, unbroken curbs and completely paved roads will be worth it.

The Neighbourhood Renewal process starts this coming fall when the Building Great Neighbourhoods team meets with the BCL Board to share the plans for replacing sanitary and storm sewers, roads, curbs, sidewalks and streetlights on City-owned property. Opportunities for questions and clarification begin at this stage.

In April/May 2016, a second meeting will be scheduled. We will be seeking opportunities to give feedback regarding the design, construction and local improvement plans that are shown to us at that time. (The BCL has already connected with Queen Alexandra and McKernan to look at 76 Avenue, a road we all share. Calling ourselves *Trio 76*, we are trying to figure out ways to eliminate short-cutting and speeding. Your ideas are welcome!)

By September/November 2016, there will be an opportunity to look at the streetlights in Belgravia and decide whether we want an upgrade in design options. Signatures and a majority rule are necessary as there is a cost to such upgrades.

In January/February 2017, we will see detailed information regarding the design, construction and local improvement process with an opportunity to provide feedback one more time. Changes by this point are likely to be quite limited however.

Construction starts in Spring 2017 and ends in 2019. And then...many years of smooth walking, driving and living in a community that will pretty much have it all!



Centenary Leadership Lecture

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with Rick Hansen

Friday, May 22, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.
Winspear Centre | Tickets \$10
uab.ca/hansen

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Made in Belgravia

African Drum Rhythm Workshop

Saturday, May 16, 1 - 3:30 p.m., BCL Hall (11540 73 Ave.)

Join us for a fun and friendly introduction to polyrhythms — no music experience required! Learn to drum the parts of a West African drum song, including the hand drum (djembe) rhythms and the bass drum (dundun) stick rhythms. We provide the drums.

Group drumming is a fun, universal, ancient way to connect with others, reduce stress, get some exercise, build community and explore music making. Workshop leaders Krista Quaife and Josie Hammond-Thrasher (Belgravia resident and editor) offer 12 years combined drumming experience and are members of Lomani Mundi percussion ensemble.

RSVP to programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca by **May 13**. Community members: \$25 / non-members: \$30. This workshop is for ages 18+. Drums and snacks provided.



Backyard Composting

Wednesday, May 20, 7 - 9 p.m., BCL Hall (11540 73 Ave.)

Compost is for your garden and the environment. Learn how to make your own using natural sources, organic matter, nutrients and minerals in your own backyard.

Our own community expert, Kirstin Castro-Wunsch, who operates a composting site in Edmonton will lead the session. Bring all your questions; share your own experiences. Take home a bag of compost.

RSVP to programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca by **May 17**. BCL members: \$5 / non-BCL members: \$10.



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Made in Belgravia

Recovery Day: *THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE*

Wednesday, June 3, 7 - 9 p.m., BCL Hall (11540 73 Ave.)

Belgravia resident Laurie de Grace is completing her thesis regarding the role of physical activity and sport in the development of substance addiction. As the mother of someone in recovery from substance addiction, she is well aware of the impact that addiction has on individuals, families and society. Those afflicted, directly or indirectly, often suffer due to the shame associated with addiction. Recovering from an addiction is hard enough but for many people, dealing with society's judgment is even more difficult.

THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE was the inspiration for the recovery movement. Edmonton hosts an annual Recovery Day (recoveryday.ca) event now takes place in over 20 cities across Canada each September to raise awareness that recovery works. Laurie is a founding member of the Edmonton committee and is pleased to offer the movie as a part of Made in Belgravia.

THE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE is a feature documentary film about the 23.5 million Americans living in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Deeply entrenched social stigma and discrimination have kept recovery voices silent and faces hidden for decades. Media depictions of people in active addiction perpetuate a lurid public fascination with the dysfunctional side of what is a preventable and treatable health condition. Just like women with breast cancer, or people with HIV/AIDS, courageous addiction recovery advocates are starting to come out of the shadows to tell their true stories. Watch the trailer at <https://youtu.be/bqoEtUn0Agw>

RSVP to programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca by **June 1**. BCL members: \$5 / non-BCL members: \$10.

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Garden notebook

Barb Krahn, Belgravia resident and obsessive gardener



As I write this first Garden Notebook in mid-April, the grit of an early Edmonton spring is still heavy on the roads and paths, relieved only by blowing litter and the last vestiges of snow. It's hard to imagine within weeks this dreary landscape will be transformed in a verdant explosion.

By the time you're reading this, most species of trees will be clothed in fresh new leaves, green will have (mostly) overtaken brown on neighbourhood lawns and many yards will be showing off tulips, crocuses and other early-season bloomers.

It will feel like a new year – so to start a new tradition, here are my spring resolutions:

I will take a chance with at least one adventurous plant choice this spring. Years ago, I decided to stick with the tried-and-true after being disappointed with low-performing plants purchased on impulse. I've since learned that's just part of gardening. Every yard has micro-climates, and it's astonishing what can grow here with the right kind of care. Time to get adventurous again!

I will deal with the ant-opolis in the back corner of my vegetable garden. I have a certain affection for ants as industrious and fascinating critters, so I've given them their space. But with that space now growing faster than the Edmonton suburbs, it's time to push back. If you know an effective pet- and environmentally-friendly ant control solution, please share. Email me [c/o editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:c/o_editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

I will give my spireas a good haircut. I love spireas – they are remarkably tough and beautiful shrubs and come in a variety of sizes and colours to fit almost any space. For these reasons, they are also overused in public landscapes where they often become sad and leggy for want of a good pruning. Spireas thrive when cut back hard in spring – they bloom on new wood, and will quickly send up fresh new shoots that will reward with profuse blooms in early summer.

I will relocate my overcrowded perennials. One of the things I love best about gardening is its ever-changing nature. This is also its biggest drawback.

Plants once thriving in my sunny front yard are now languishing in the shadow of mature shrubs, or have overgrown their allotted space. Time to get out the spade and dig, move, divide and share. Anyone like some midnight blue salvia?

What are your spring resolutions? I hope one of them will be to attend our early summer Open Gardens tour, date to be announced in the next Belgravian newsletter. Come see some of Belgravia's loveliest gardens and connect with your neighbours at this free community event!

I also hope you'll send me news of your gardening successes, challenges and surprises as this growing season takes off. Email [Garden notebook c/o editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:Garden_notebook_c/o_editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca) and we'll share your stories in future issues. In the meantime, happy planting!

Made in Belgravia *Photography Workshop*

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., BCL Hall (11540 73 Ave.)

Members of the Images Alberta Camera Club will coach Belgravia's aspiring photographers, providing tips on camera use and options for other equipment, accompanying photographers to picturesque places in our neighbourhood, and helping Belgravians explore how to enhance their images and print them at the hall.

A neighbourhood competition will run from May 13 – 16 at Gracious Goods where Belgravians may vote for their favourite photograph.

RSVP to programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca by **May 7**. Cost: FREE



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Planning and place

Dianne Gillespie

On April 13, City Council approved bylaw changes to allow narrow lots in the RFI Zone (to a minimum of 25 feet or 7.6 metres) and removed location criteria for garage and garden suites, permitting them to be built at any location on a street in residential areas.

In Belgravia, lots that are 50 feet or more are depicted on a City map found at

http://webdocs.edmonton.ca/InfraPlan/ZoningMaps/RfI_50_80ft_pdf/Belgravia.pdf

Most people agree that continually building outward is not sustainable. In spite of this, there is resistance to density practices, especially infill. Rather than seeing this as a NIMBY problem, it's time to delve a little deeper into the nuances of resistances to infill developments. Is it possible that resistance to infill and density development may be more about how the whole process has been rolled out?

Urban design and planning is challenging. Depending on who you are as a stakeholder in the process, you may have a very different idea about what is and is not desirable. Without the engagement of these differing views, resistance to infill may always be a problem.

The Belgravia Community Planning Committee will work with the board in the months ahead to develop principles as best practices for effective engagement around density practices.

Did you know...

Edmonton's latitude at 53°32'N
is just south of Hamburg's at 53°34'N

Move Your Car - May 4

Street sweeping is scheduled to start the week of May 4. If possible, please move your vehicles off the road so crews may do a thorough job.

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June 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Windsor Park Community Hall

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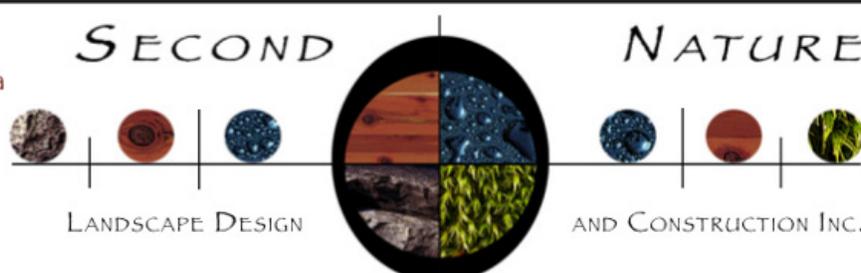
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Nominations open for BCL Board of Directors

David Ridley, past president

Contribute your leadership, insight and commitment towards Belgravia Community League's (BCL) vision of Belgravia as a sustainable neighbourhood, and a connected, engaged and diverse community.

BCL is seeking the interest and nomination of candidates for its board of directors — individuals prepared to serve on an active management board committed to creating and sustaining a healthy and connected neighbourhood through the good governance of our community league. BCL is a catalyst in creating and sustaining quality of life for the whole community through community engagement, programs, facilities and advocacy.

Terms & Responsibilities

Elected directors serve two-year terms on a volunteer basis and are eligible for a maximum of three consecutive terms. For 2015, the BCL board is seeking three to five new members, including the roles of **vice-chair** and **membership director**, as well as **directors-at-large**.

Responsibilities of Directors

- Governance of the organization
- Providing direction and support to key volunteers, creating and carrying out work plans (with key volunteers), liaising with members and community members
- Developing policies and practices that support BCL's commitment to its vision and mission
- Contributing to strategic discussions and decisions aligned with the vision and purpose of BCL
- Attending and participating in monthly board meetings and serve on committees formed to develop BCL as an organization and achieve BCL's goals
- Serving as volunteers at related BCL events and activities occasionally

Desired Qualifications

- A strong interest in the vision and mission of BCL
- Knowledge and interest in Belgravia as a community and in Edmonton as a city
- An interest in and aptitude for board governance

BCL welcomes nominations by the **4 p.m., May 29 deadline**. Voting will take place at BCL's Annual General Meeting, which takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10.

Members of BCL in good standing are encouraged to submit nominations of candidates (self-nominations are accepted as well), along with a statement of interest from the nominee. This is encouraged in advance of the due date to allow full consideration of nominees.

Nominees will be contacted to discuss their interest in relation to BCL's work and objectives, as well as specific interests.

For more information about BCL, including the organization's current work and more on serving on the board of directors, please contact David Ridley at pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Renewing BCL's Bylaws and Objects

It has been nearly 50 years since BCL's objects and bylaws were last amended. At this year's Annual General Meeting, the board of directors of BCL will present a special resolution to update these. Members of the board and league have worked over the past year to bring these forward.

Bylaws are the fundamental governing rules and regulations of any society, stating how the society is governed and how the powers of the society are to be exercised. At this point in time, BCL's bylaws are outdated and ineffective. The Societies Act, the Alberta legislation which provides the terminology and requirements for non-profit societies, is effectively BCL's governing document.

In terms of BCL's objects: These are the most fundamental goals and objectives of the organization. Objects also include the reasons the organization has been formed and its long-term goals. Currently, BCL has 11 objects, including the historically important to "generally encourage and foster and develop among its members a recognition of the importance of agriculture in the national life." The aim is to streamline the current 11 objects to four that clearly express BCL's purpose.

Notice of the resolution to amend the objects and bylaws will come officially at least three weeks before the June 10 AGM, with the amended version posted on BCL's website at belgraviaedmonton.ca

Events calendar

Save-the-Date!

Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m.
BCL Annual General Meeting

All members and residents are welcome — join us for some conversation and light refreshments.
See page eight for details.

Belgravia – St. Paul's Play Group

St. Paul's Church, 76 Ave. & 116 St.
Mondays (follows EPSB calendar), 9:30 – 11 a.m.
Enter church by main doors, take stairs to the left and head across gymnasium to room on other end. Casual, secular and operates on drop-in basis.

Lendrum Pottery Group Mother's Day Sale

Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. – noon
Pottery for all occasions. Decorative and practical.
Oven, freezer and dishwasher safe. Free Coffee.

Zumba Classes

Saturday, May 3, 9 & 23, 9 – 10 a.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
Drop-in fee: \$10

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

Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m.
Meet at Belgravia Arts Park, 74 Ave. & 115 St.
Explore your neighbourhood and meet your neighbours during BCL's 3rd annual Jane's Walk. Dress for the weather. Walk lasts about 1 – 1.5 hours.

Community Mtng: DC2 Rezoning Application

Wednesday, May 6, 7 – 9 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
For info. email planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Made in Belgravia: Photography Workshop

Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
See page six for details
*Visit Gracious Goods from May 13 – May 16 to vote for your favourite photo in our neighbourhood photo competition.

BCL Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 7 – 9 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
Everyone welcome!

Made in Belgravia: Drum Rhythm Workshop

Saturday, May 16, 1 – 3:30 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
See page four for details

Made in Belgravia: Backyard Composting

Wednesday, May 20, 7 – 9 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
See page four for details

Screening of BCL Filmmaker's Film: 2.57k

Sunday, May 24, 1 p.m.
Metro Cinema at the Garneau Theatre
See page 10 for details

Deadline for BCL Board Nominations

Friday, May 29, by 4 p.m.
See page eight for details

Made in Belgravia: The Anonymous People

Wednesday, June 3, 7 – 9 p.m.
BCL Hall, 11540 73 Ave.
See page five for details

Nanny Day Celebration with B.O.S.C.

Saturday, June 6, 5 – 9 p.m.
Details to come in June issue

Free Drop-In Bike Safety Program

Sunday, June 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Windsor Park Community League, 11840 87 Ave.
<http://belgraviaedmonton.ca/free-drop-in-bike-safety-program>

Get out and Vote!

Tuesday, May 5
Provincial Election

For info. call Elections Alberta at 1-877-422-8683

Meet your neighbour: Eva Colmers



Filmmaker Eva Colmers is drawn to the world of light and shadows. A Belgravian who works as a writer and director in theatre, film and television, Eva will screen her latest shortfilm at METRO Cinema this month. Entitled 2.57k, her film involves 80 cubic feet of sand, two brave dancers and the help of renowned local sound installation artist Gary James Joynes who has worldwide exhibitions with his cymatic sand creations.

“For the shoot, I had to bring in an insane amount of sand to create our sand world,” says Eva. “We had to be so careful around our equipment. And the disposal was a bit tricky, to say the least.”

Named for a particular audio frequency at which sand grains on a metal plate start to form intriguing patterns, 2.57k is a symbolic and stunning shortfilm that allows us to see and hear the extraordinary.

Eva credits her mother, a painter, for greatly influencing the way she looks at the world. After completing an M.A. in shadow theatre, she moved over to film and video over 10 years ago. Since then, she’s written, directed and produced a dozen award-winning short films including *Granny Baby*, *The Weightless Traveller*, *Hand Sum*, *Blink!* and *No Problem*, as well as two feature-length documentaries for the National Film Board of Canada (*The Elder Project*, *The Enemy Within*). Presently, Eva is finishing another NFB documentary and writing a script for her next dramatic film project, which she hopes to shoot in Belgravia (fingers crossed for funding)!

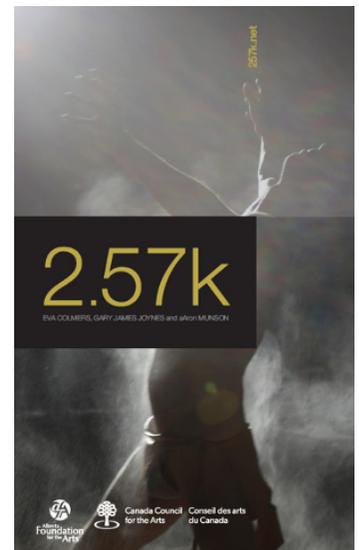
Eva moved to Edmonton with her husband Bill some 25 years ago. They fell in love with their house and the area and decided to stay in Belgravia. Several renovations helped them expand their house and create a unique home, where they raised two wonderful children. When not working, Eva enjoys walking her dog Milo along the ravine with other BCL neighbours and dogs, finding many of her creative ideas emerge during long walks.

Join Eva!

**Sunday, May 24
1 p.m.**

**for a
special screening
of her film 2.57k**

**METRO Cinema
at the
Garneau Theatre**



10 Questions with Eva Colmers

1) What do you like best about Belgravia?

The wonderful mix of people and their eclectic homes and gardens

2) What's your favourite Edmonton restaurant?

Boualouang - Laos & Thai Cuisine

3) What's your favourite vacation spot?

Oaxaca, Mexico and Bali, Indonesia and...I can't just pick one

4) What's your favourite film?

Time of the Gypsies by Emir Kusturica

5) What's your biggest pet peeve?

Generalizations without looking at particulars

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

I don't eat "snack-food," unless nuts and dried mangos count

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

An elevator repair technician

8) What super power would you love to have?

I'd love to fly with my arms stretched wide

9) What book are you reading now?

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

10) What are your words to live by?

"Less is more" (it's what I tell myself daily but I have not yet mastered it fully)