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#### **Belgravia Community Hall:**

11540 73 Avenue  
 Edmonton AB T6G 0G1

#### **Next deadline:**

April issue: March 18

BCL is a member of the Edmonton  
 Federation of Community Leagues.  
 Learn more at [www.efcl.org](http://www.efcl.org)

## Hall goes to tender

Sixty years ago this winter, a small article appeared in the Edmonton Journal with this lead sentence: "Sealed Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 12 o'clock noon on February 28th, 1955, for the construction of a club house." After providing details the article was signed "E. Stack, President, Belgravia Community League." Before the year was over that club house was up and running as the original Belgravia Community Hall. In 1993-94, our hall was expanded and upgraded. Now it is time to do it again.

At a special meeting on February 25, the Belgravia Community League Board decided to go to tender in March with plans to reconstruct the community hall. The plans, under development for more than two years, will see the hall substantially rebuilt and expanded 21 feet toward the rink. The decision was unanimous and enthusiastic.

The rebuilt hall will have wonderful new space for out-of-school and playschool programs on the lower level; a large new activity hall; washrooms on both levels; good accessibility for wheelchair users; much better insulation and windows; inviting new entrances; a new kitchen; and, up-to-date wiring, plumbing and heating. The list goes on and on.

**Continued on page three**

# Editor's message

Josie Hammond-Thrasher



Hello, dear neighbours! It's with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new editor of the Belgravian. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Chris Hammond-Thrasher, interim editor (and my fabulous husband) for filling the gap between Sarah's leaving and my taking on this role — thank you for graciously

accepting being *voluntold*, and cheers for a job well done.

What I love most about reading community newsletters is hearing the voices of neighbours shine through in their stories. A variety of viewpoints on a number of topics makes for an interesting, lively and often compelling read.

As your new editor, my goal is to make sure this newsletter suits your needs and reflects our diverse and vibrant neighbourhood. Do you have ideas for new columns and features? Are you a photography enthusiast who would like to see your neighbourhood snaps on the front page? Do you know of an event in our area that you want to share with your neighbours? Is there something you used to see in these pages that you miss?

Please email your feedback and ideas to me at [editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:editor@belgraviaedmonton.ca) — I look forward to hearing from you. I hope you enjoy our March issue!

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2. Belgravia Elementary School Parent's Council, Chair	David Shanks	<a href="mailto:daveshanks@me.com">daveshanks@me.com</a>
3. South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition (SCNC) BCL Rep	Bob Kamp	<a href="mailto:rskamp@telusplanet.net">rskamp@telusplanet.net</a>
4. University of Alberta Community Consultation (UACC)	Pending...	

# President's update

*Jeanette Boman*

My first challenge when becoming president of the BCL in June, 2013 was to thoroughly read the McKernan-Belgravia Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) when a group of residents turned up at the AGM asking for our support to address their concerns about it at a pending public hearing. It was my first public hearing experience and quite frankly, a bit of a nerve wracking one when all was said and done. In spite of the reservations we shared with Council, the ARP was passed as written.

We were reassured it would be good for Belgravia in the long run; to have a guideline in place for increasing density in the community. The notion of appropriate community consultation referred to in the ARP was reassuring as well. So were the statements about sensitive, compatible infill that would respect the existing scale, form, massing and style of the neighbourhood.

Since then, several development applications have come to the BCL and neighbours within a 60m radius around development projects. As City planners review the application, the BCL and neighbours get a letter stating 'your opinion about this application is important.'

To be as thorough as possible, the Belgravia Community Plan Committee (BCPC) was established to consult with neighbours, developers and City planners as densification proposals came along. The first RFI to RA7 zoning application was a real 'test case' for the BCPC as we embarked on a process to represent community residents' perspectives about how to increase density that was sensitive to built form, privacy, light and traffic concerns.

With our exploration and discussions done, we submitted our letters to City Planning and received letters of thanks in turn with the reassurance that our concerns had been 'duly noted.' Next came the Notice of the Public Hearing and an invitation to register to speak. While still hopeful our submitted concerns would be addressed in the report that went to Council, it was shocking to read that Current Planning fully promoted the application. Our concerns were 'listed' in the report but in essence, 'dismissed' as irrelevant because the ARP and the suggested RA7 zoning was no longer just a suggestion in the ARP, it was now part of the bylaw.

So why am I telling you all this? Well for one thing, Ben Henderson made a motion at a Council meeting (June 2014) calling for the clarification of appropriate

community consultation. After more meetings with City planners and another ARP Information Session at McKernan Hall (December 2014), the June motion report went to Council's Executive Committee in February. We presented our views again ... and after 2 ½ hours of feeling like we were being heard, Don Iveson moved Administration develop a 'pilot collaborative process' for implementing the ARP.

It will be an experiment but a necessary one if we ever hope to be involved as stakeholders who help make decisions for how the ARP is interpreted and implemented ... more as a guide for building community than for building for the sake of more buildings alone.

## Continued from page one

While the plans are ambitious, they have been developed with a limited budget in mind.

Tenders will close at the beginning of April, at which time we will have a firmer sense of how well the plans fit with the money available. The plans have been scaled back once to reduce costs, and many precautions have been taken to keep surprises to a minimum.

It's another big step towards our 'hall for all' and if everything continues according to plan, construction will start this summer, for completion by August 2016.

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### Belgravia Community League

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Visit us online  
for up-to-the-minute news.



[belgraviaedmonton.ca](http://www.belgraviaedmonton.ca)



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# Made in Belgravia: *Computer Security through a Hacker's Eye*

March 25, 7 – 9 p.m. at the BCL Hall

March is Fraud Prevention Month. Improve your fraud awareness at our upcoming Made in Belgravia session, *Computer Security through a Hacker's Eye*.

Belgravia resident and information security consultant Chris Hammond-Thrasher lives by the maxim, "Through understanding the attacks, we can better defend ourselves."

Join Chris for a journey into the world of computer criminals, identity thieves and fraudsters. Use real hacker tools and techniques to take over a sacrificial laptop on our laboratory network.

All computer skill levels are welcome. Bring your laptop if you have one. Everyone will leave with a security toolkit DVD.

RSVP to [info@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:info@belgraviaedmonton.ca) by March 23. BCL members: \$5; non-BCL members: \$10.

Every single scam in human history  
has worked for one key reason;  
the victim did not recognize it as a scam.

- R. Paul Wilson



Michael Robb and Katherine Irwin shared their knowledge and appreciation of five different kinds of Scotch Whiskey with the 20 people who attended our February Made in Belgravia session, **Whiskey Tasting 101**. Thanks to Bill Tanasichuk (Bin 104) for his support of this session. As a first-time presentation, Michael and Katherine hope to capitalize on all the work that went into making this one so successful. If you missed ours, we'll keep you posted for the one Katherine now hopes to do for her Holyrood Community League.

# A message from Councillor Ben Henderson

I know it might not feel like it, but spring is around the corner, and with it the resulting spring melt. When all that snow melts it can reveal a lot of litter that has built up over the long winter months.

The City uses many tools as part of our Capital City Clean Up program but there are many things you can do to help. One of the most helpful is reporting litter and graffiti. The easiest and most effective way to report litter or graffiti is to use Edmonton's 311 service. You can call 311, email [311@edmonton.ca](mailto:311@edmonton.ca) or you can use Edmonton's 311 app on your smartphone. With the City's new "311 Explorer" you can see the status of your complaint and see other complaints in your area.

There are also lots of different programs the City has so you can help out. You can "Adopt a Block" where you volunteer to pick up litter on your favourite block, park or trail. You can do it on your own, as a family or as part of your weekly walk with friends. It's a great way to exercise. If you see something dangerous, like a used

needle, please contact 311. The City offers free graffiti clean-up kits, though please check with the property owner before using them.

While we all want to do our part, EPCOR transformers require special paint and treatment to remove graffiti. Painting over them with regular paint can require the entire station to be re-surfaced. If you see graffiti on an EPCOR station report it to 311.

As a community group, you can apply for a grant for a bin to get rid of large, bulky items in your neighbourhood. Communities can also organize a community mural as a non-profit group and apply for a matching grant. Community murals are a great way to discourage graffiti and to provide beautiful public art.

You can find more information on the Capital City Clean Up at [edmonton.ca](http://edmonton.ca)

Please feel free to contact me anytime at [ben.henderson@edmonton.ca](mailto:ben.henderson@edmonton.ca) or at 780.496.8146. Follow me on Twitter @ben\_hen

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# Hall renewal: digging deep into Belgravia

Kevin Taft

One Saturday morning in January you may have noticed a pick-up truck with a drilling rig mounted on it, working for a couple of hours at the community hall site. Someone immediately asked if we were exploring for oil as part of our fundraising campaign. No, nothing like that, though we'll keep that option in mind.

The truck and its crew of geotechnical workers were taking soil samples to help our structural engineer plan the footings for the hall expansion. The original hall has been rock solid for sixty years, and the addition from 1994 hasn't budged a centimetre. That is remarkable for a building in Belgravia, where soil heaves and shifts with every change of season. We want the new addition to be just as solid as the current building.

The crew drilled down thirty feet. Guess what they found. Over the years I've dug a lot of fence post holes in Belgravia, first with a shovel, next time with a two-person power auger and eventually with a bobcat. You can see from that progression that I was learning something about the clay in Belgravia. When the truck began drilling I thought they would hit five feet of clay, and then maybe sand, gravel, soil and rocks. Five, ten, twenty feet down went the drill, and it was "stiff clay" all the way. Finally, after 25 feet, they encountered silt, which the crew leader said marked a lake-bed from many centuries or even thousands of years ago. Now we know what lies underfoot, and more importantly our design team knows. Remember this next time you dig a fence post hole.

Our structural engineer, Barry Laviolette, has his office behind Belgravia Hub. Barry is doing a great job at a very friendly price. And Ken Goble helped clear the path for the drilling crew. Thank you both so much.

The Belgravia Hall Renewal Committee

Kathy Brodeur-Robb

Michael Cohen

Kathy Goble

Dale Rowe

Jonathan Sharek

Eugene Silva

Kevin Taft (Chair).



## Share your talent with your community!

Made in Belgravia is an opportunity for people in the community with a variety of skills, abilities and hobbies to teach and learn from each other.

If you have a Made in Belgravia idea, contact the BCL Program Director ([programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca)) who will help in getting it planned.

For more information, visit [belgraviaedmonton.ca/category/events/](http://belgraviaedmonton.ca/category/events/)



## Family Day fun at the hygge

The Family Day Hygge planned by the BCL and St. Paul's Church on February 16 was a huge success! With Ken Goble's big fire outside for roasting marshmallows and straw bales to sit on, people warmed up after kick sledding, snow fort building, skating and sledging. Thanks to Noah Wishart's huge effort, the ice was made ready and kept clear as snowflakes fell for much of the afternoon.

Indoors, the beautiful voice and guitar work of Eva

Footie provided a lovely background for cookie decorating, face painting, crafts and family photo-taking in our storage room turned photo booth. Reg Norby and his crew prepared over 180 hot dogs. From that and the number of people in Belgravia family photographs, organizers Lorene Turner, Debby Waldman and Jeanette Boman estimate 180 people of all ages turned out for this second annual event.

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# Planning and place

*Dianne Gillespie*

Thank you first to everyone who responded to the Belgravia Community Planning Committee (BCPC) survey. The survey closed on February 28 so look for results in our next BCL newsletter.

Latest planning activity:

- Five members of the BCPC made presentations to Executive Committee of Council on February 3 regarding the meaning of appropriate public consultation. This was an important step towards a pilot collaborative process towards implementing the McKernan-Belgravia Area Redevelopment Plan.
- An Open House on March 4 from 4 - 7 p.m. in the City Room at City Hall is planned to present proposed changes to the height and grade regulations

including: the deletion of storeys as a notion of height limit; new methods for calculating the grade of walk out basements; and, allowing walkout basements and drive-under garages to be built without special permission. These proposed changes are also on the March 10 Executive Committee meeting of Council.

- At the March 16 Public Hearing, Council will vote on a bylaw to allow Garage and Garden Suites on all single house lots in the city as well as the subdivision of RFI lots to a 7.6m width. For more information, visit <http://www.efcl.org/mar-16-2015-public-hearing-garage-and-garden-suites/>
- The next BCPC meeting is set for March 18 from 7 - 9 p.m. at the hall. All are welcome!

## Development applications

Address	Permit(s)/Application	Action
11503 77 Ave.	Construct an 876 sq. foot, four car garage with above garage suite	Development has been approved. Appeal is set for March 4, 9 a.m., Rm 3 Churchill Bldg, 10019 103 Ave.
Belgravia Arts Park	Amend the Belgravia Arts Park from a Site Specific Development Control (DC2) Zone to Public Park (AP) Zone	Opinions regarding this application currently being sought by Daniel Boric (Planner, Development & Zoning) Email: <a href="mailto:daniel.boric@edmonton.ca">daniel.boric@edmonton.ca</a>
11436 71 Ave. and 11440 71 Ave.	Rezone the two lots from RFI to RA7 (Low Rise Apartment)	Early stage of application review; Opinions being sought. Email: <a href="mailto:ania.schoof@edmonton.ca">ania.schoof@edmonton.ca</a>
11432 71 Ave.	Permit granted to construct a semi-detached house	Appeals can be made up to March 11 by calling 780.496.6079

### Notice

Potential rezoning application (RFI to DC2)  
at the corner of University Avenue and 119 Street

To learn more about this application, attend the  
Open House on March 26,  
6:30 – 9 p.m. at the BCL Hall.

For information about Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw, visit  
[www.edmonton.ca/bylaws\\_licences/bylaws/zoning-bylaw.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws_licences/bylaws/zoning-bylaw.aspx)



# Have you heard about the Belgravia – St. Paul's Play Group?

Sea Taubner

Unless our children have their noses in a book or are particularly mesmerized by our “in flight movie,” we cannot possibly pass by St. Paul's Church on 76 Avenue and 116 Street without some comment about ‘Play Group.’ Usually it is my youngest who points and tries to articulate his wish to go that instant, or one of the older children reflecting on how much they miss going, even though it was years ago for them. Such is a testament to how much our children have enjoyed their time playing and socializing with other families in the community.

Since becoming the play group coordinator two and a half years ago, I have witnessed the ebb and flow of families attending the play group. With this article, I hope to reach out to new Belgravia and surrounding neighbourhood families who may not have heard about

this play opportunity for pre-school children.

The Belgravia – St. Paul's Play Group runs every regular Monday morning (following the EPSB schedule) from 9:30 – 11 a.m. in their nursery room and gymnasium in the basement, which turns out to be a pretty great place to ride tricycles and scooters in the dead of winter! Just enter the church by the main doors, take the stairs to the left, hang your coats in the cloakroom and head across the gymnasium to a room on the other end to check out the toys and cheerful faces.

The group is casual, secular and operates on a drop-in basis. People come and go throughout the morning, depending on nap schedules and childcare arrangements. It would be great to see some new faces, or familiar faces who might have expanded their family since the last time we chatted!

## Connecting with Edmonton Police Services

For those of you who want to connect with the Edmonton Police Services (EPS), please note:

- With the new EPS Mobile App, you can report five types of crime, receive critical alerts, see crime files and have easy access to the EPS social media websites.
- By participating in #TrafficTuesday on the EPS Twitter account, you can follow 20 of EPS' officers to see what it's like in an array of positions within the EPS.
- From video PSAs, to inside the EPS Canine Unit, to their award winning series, This is Who I Am, the EPS YouTube channel gives a new perspective of EPS.
- The EPS is on Pinterest where photos of recovered stolen property are posted to connect owners with their lost goods.

Check out the following list of resources for up-to-date Edmonton Police Services information:

**Website:** [www.edmontonpolice.ca](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca)

**Mobile App:** [www.edmontonpolice.ca/app](http://www.edmontonpolice.ca/app)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/edmontonpoliceservice](http://www.facebook.com/edmontonpoliceservice)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/edmontonpolice](http://www.twitter.com/edmontonpolice)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/epsvideoonline](http://www.youtube.com/epsvideoonline)

**Flickr:** [www.flickr.com/edmontonpolice](http://www.flickr.com/edmontonpolice)

**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/edmontonpolice](http://www.pinterest.com/edmontonpolice)

### Answers to the Belgravian Jan. - Feb. issue Trivia Challenge

1. The name of the geocache in the photo is the **Big Tree Cache**. Its geocode is **GC24DC4**.

2. There are **nine** geocaches hidden within the Belgravia boundaries.

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# Belgravia: one of Edmonton's 2015 Best Neighbourhoods?



Rob Tarulli, a past BCL Board Director (Planning and Development), wrote to remind the BCL to draw our membership and community to Avenue Edmonton's 2015 Best Neighbourhoods Survey at: <https://banister.ab.ca/2015EdmontonBestNeighbourhoodSurvey/>

Rob believes it is an exciting time for Belgravia with all the work being done to renew the hall, develop more programs for the community and get a community level voice in planning, densification and transportation matters.

For the fourth consecutive year, Avenue Edmonton is asking Edmontonians what they think makes a great neighbourhood. Once again they are asking what neighbourhoods are the best in the city in which to live. The focus this year is on health and how your community contributes to your sense of health. Is Belgravia an easy place in which to walk, bike and take your dog for a walk? Do you make use of the parks, the soccer fields, the playgrounds and rink? Is it a friendly place? Good for families, kids and seniors?

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

When you complete the survey, you will be entered into monthly draws for gift certificates from some of the city's best restaurants — the earlier you fill it out, the more chances you will have to win!

