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Belgravia Community Hall

11540—73 Avenue

Published September, October,
 November, January, March, May and
 June by the Belgravia Community
 League (BCL).

Submissions are welcome! Contact
 Belgravian Editor Sarah Chan at:
newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

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Between issues, and for links to other
 resources discussed herein, visit:
www.belgraviaedmonton.ca

Transit Oriented Development: Opportunities and Threats for Belgravia

Rob Tarulli

Over the past few months, the City of Edmonton has approached both the Belgravia and McKernan Community Leagues about a proposed Transit Oriented Development (TOD). TOD's are means of creating "complete communities". In other words, they are way of enabling communities to meet the needs of a broad range of people by providing ready access to amenities, recreation and transportation services. TODs work best when there is a critical mass of people within the immediate vicinity of a transit station. In general terms, this may mean putting policy in place that encourages increased density and mixed use developments within a limited radius of existing transit hubs. The end goal is to create vibrant, pedestrian focused neighbourhoods.

Recently, the City of Edmonton has developed guidelines to direct TOD development throughout our city. The document outlines a number of different TOD types based on the scale and character of the neighbourhoods they are being proposed for. Because Belgravia is a neighbourhood comprised mainly of single family dwellings, the type of development proposed for our community is in keeping with the existing urban fabric. What is clear from the proposal is that increasing density in our community will not mean putting up highrises and towers. The proposal looks at rezoning the area within approximately 400 meters around the current McKernan/Belgravia LRT station. In many cases, this may mean changing the current RF1 zoning (Single Detached Residential) to RF3 (Low Density / Duplex).

Continued on Page 3...

from the editor's desk...



Sarah Chan, Belgravian Editor

Belgravians, welcome to the icy depths of winter! Though it may be chilly outside, there are a number of upcoming warm and cozy community events on the horizon. But, these events are not possible without some Belgravian help in the

form of volunteers - come join us in planning something fun! You can find contact info on the back page of the newsletter.

In light of spring, don't forget to get any interested kids registered for Belmac (Belgrvia-McKernan) outdoor soccer! The registration process is detailed below.

We also have some fun outings scheduled with the City of Edmonton's Community Cruiser Program, which offers lots of great opportunities for teens aged 12-15 to get-together for some fun on Friday nights. It fills up quickly so do not delay your registration, details of which can be found on page 5.

This issue also includes a few articles pertaining to transit-oriented development and parking issues in

Belgravia, all of which I am sure we are interested in on some level. Take some time to enjoy the written contributions from your fellow Belgravians. I, for one, was very pleased when the new parking restrictions were posted outside of our place!

Finally, I have a **correction** to make with regards to the photo of the new Pumpkins and Moons sculpture in the Arts Park that ran in the November/December issue: the artist's name was spelled incorrectly and should have read **Luciana Erregue-Sacchi**. Once again, thank Luciana for the wonderful addition of her sculpture to our community!

Belgravia Community League Contacts

President	David Ridley	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President	Jeanette Boman	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Hall Rental	Vacant	
Program	Vacant	
Director-at-large	Barb Krahn	barb.krahn@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-large	Dale Rowe	dale.rowe@belgraviaedmonton.ca

2012 Belmac Outdoor Soccer Registration

{Please Follow these Two Steps in Proper Sequence}

Step 1: Register online at Soccer Signup <http://www.soccersignup.ca/>

Step 2: Attend the in-person payment session for your community. You will need the two printed copies of your online registration, cheques or cash for the fees and deposits, and proof of residency.

Payment sessions for 2012 Belmac Outdoor Soccer Registration:

Thursday, Feb 23 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM at McKernan Community Hall (11341-78 Ave)

or

Sunday, Feb 26 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Belgravia Community Hall (11605 -74 Ave)

For more information please go to: <http://www.swemsa.com>

advertising in the belgravian

Full Page	1/2 Page	1/4 Page
7.5"w x 10"h	10"w x 5"h	3.75"w x 5"h
BCL Member: \$75	BCL Member: \$45	BCL Member: \$25
Non-Member: \$100	Non-Member: \$60	Non-Member: \$35

Submit inquiries to newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Discounts available for full-year commitment.

Transit Oriented Development... [cont. from cover]

In general, many of the people within our community agree that some level of increased density within Belgravia is favorable. Moderately increasing density within walking distance to the LRT has been shown to increase the use of public transit, create a sense of place and encourage mixed-use development. Who wouldn't want to have more accessible amenities available within walking distance to our homes? This is increasingly important to those wishing to continue living in their homes as they age. Imagine being able to walk to the bakery for a fresh loaf of bread or perhaps pick up a bottle of wine to serve with dinner on your way home from work. Imagine being able to walk to the dentist for an appointment or meeting a friend for lunch at a bistro before taking the train downtown for a show. Moderate increases in density encourages the types of pedestrian traffic required for these types of amenities to succeed.

Issues and Concerns Being Addressed with the City of Edmonton

That said, there are a number of important interventions that need to take place in order for a strong TOD to form. As you are well aware, our neighborhood has had to make more than its fair share of concessions over the past decade. We've had to endure road widening, traffic congestion, commuter short cutting and parking issues, just to name a few. When the City approached the Board about their plans for a TOD, we made it clear that we'd like to see a very convincing proposal; one that was not simply "good enough" for Edmonton but indeed, world-class. Over the past few months, we've heard from various people about their concerns regarding the potential for large tracts of low quality rental housing to develop as a result of changes to the existing zoning with the TOD target area. We've brought this to the attention of both the external TOD consultant (Urban Strategies Inc.) and the City of Edmonton. The Board will continue to push for guidelines that encourage high quality infill projects that preserve the family centered character of our community. The Board also believes that new infill projects should complement the existing urban morphology. This to say

"Moderately increasing density within walking distance to the LRT has been shown to increase the use of public transit, create a sense of place and encourage mixed-use development. Who wouldn't want to have more accessible amenities available within walking distance to our homes? Imagine being able to walk to the bakery for a fresh loaf of bread or perhaps pickup a bottle of wine to serve with dinner on your way home from work."

that new infill projects should have a positive impact on adjacent properties and stay within the current confines of the existing building patterns. We are also aware that high quality, family-focused development does not occur without some degree of guidance and input from the community. Prescriptive design guidelines of new development within the target area and small lot subdivision are both ways the City can influence the type of new infill in our neighbourhood. Design guidelines help ensure that the character, size, orientation of buildings and construction materials meet requirements put forth by our

community. Small lot subdivision is also an effective intervention for the promotion of family friendly housing. It encourages developers to build two single-detached houses on a standard 50' wide lot. Typically, single family dwellings tend to maintain the block face (urban typology) and scale of the existing street while meeting the objectives of the City of Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan.

Opportunities to Voice Your Opinion

The City of Edmonton held their first TOD public consultation workshop on November 22nd. Although the event was well attended, it is important that you remain involved in the overall

discussion. Over the next year, the City will continue to collect information about the needs and wants of those who live and work in our community. Public consultation events will be advertised in our newsletter as well as on our website.

If you wish to review the material presented at the November 22nd workshop, you can find it by entering "McKernan Belgravia Station Area Plan" in the search bar at www.edmonton.ca

If you have further questions about TODs in general or wish to discuss the City's plan further, you may contact: Michael Strong, Principal planner, City of Edmonton (michael.strong@edmonton.ca - 780-496-1909) or Sara McCartney, Planner (sara@parioplan.com - 780-423-6824).

Rob lives in Belgravia and is Senior Land Use Planner with Edmonton Catholic Schools.

More on Transit Oriented Development in Belgravia

Caitlin Brandon

Implementation of the McKernan/Belgravia Transit Oriented Development (TOD) has the potential to create significant change in our neighborhood.

The City is now in phase II of the project: exploration and evaluation of alternatives (Dec 2011 – Mar 2012). The next phase, preparation of draft station area plan and zoning changes, begins in April.

Now is an excellent time to consider the changing land use options, and talk the TOD planners. As outlined in the November Open House presentation documents (available on the City website given below), there are two distinct areas that change is being considered. The first area is along the community perimeter at 76 Ave and 114 St, roughly one-half block in from 76th and a few houses in along 114 St.

This first area also includes city land currently used as the Arts Park. The second area is enclosed by 114 St to 116 St, from 76th Ave to Belgravia Road. The boundary on the second area meanders slightly - being as far into the community as 118 St at 74th Ave.

Land use changes being considered for the perimeter include multi-unit housing forms, such as condominiums or stacked row houses. Land use changes being considered for the inner area include side-by-side duplex structures, triplex structures and townhouses (row housing) as well as smaller lot single family homes.

Some questions you may want to ask yourself are:

- How can TOD best maintain the traditional spirit of Belgravia characterized by a high density of families and home ownership?
- Do we want to keep the Arts Park for green space? Should we add a small open (unwalled) skating rink, for family use (ie no-hockey)?
- How best can TOD implement a gradual transition in density that respects the considerable number of newer builds and renovations already completed?
- Could TOD include senior housing so that people choosing not to live in their houses can continue to stay within the community?
- How best can TOD and the community discourage the spread of rooming-house rental properties common in duplex structures along 76th Ave?

- What housing forms would best support new families to move into our community? The cost of land is prohibitive to rebuilding near the LRT.

Houses sold within the area near the LRT often end up as student rental properties - without land use change, this trend will likely worsen not improve. Some comments on lot division and urban character row housing have been written on: <http://belgraviaedmonton.ca/letter-tod-thoughts-insights-on-more-livable-neighbourhood/>

At its heart, TOD has the objective to create livable, vibrant and walkable communities. Our community is fortunate in many many ways. Change is good. Informed, involved and guided change is best.

You can view the November Presentation materials online: http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/urban_planning_and_design/mckernan-belgravia-station-area-plan.aspx

Plan to attend the next TOD workshop in March; meanwhile if you see ideas for building forms suitable to the neighborhood - bring pictures to discuss at your workshop table.

Email your community league with questions, ideas or concerns: planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Interested in connecting Belgravians online with their neighbourhood and with each other?

BelgraviaEdmonton.ca Webmaster Sought

We're looking for someone who would like to animate Belgravia Community League's website (Wordpress) by developing and posting content. If you'd like to develop other social media tools to connect people, that would be great as well!

The position requires both independent initiative and collaboration with the Belgravia Community League (BCL) board, newsletter editor and other community volunteers and organizations in developing and posting content. Some technical ability required, but there is support for this through BCL's communications committee. It's more about timely, active and creative content that is interesting and relevant to Belgravians.

If you're interested or would like more information, contact president@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Belgravia Transportation and Parking Matters

Jeanette Boman, BCL Vice-President

Parking and transportation issues in Belgravia have slowly been addressed in one-way or another in the past few months.

Traffic congestion along 76 Ave during afternoon rush hours has decreased with the completion of various road-work projects around the city. Incidents of road rage at the 4 way stop intersection of 115 St and 76 Ave have diminished as well.

A related concern was the all day parking zones along streets and avenues close to the LRT station. This contributed to congestion within the community by non-residents parking for long periods of time. Dave Kinsman, a Supervisor in City Traffic Operations visited and walked these areas with BCL Transportation and Parking (BCL T & P) committee members. Two and three hour restricted parking along 115th and 116th streets as well as 73 Ave. along side the Arts Park, Community League building and school grounds have been implemented.

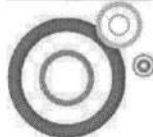
Two hour restricted parking in other residential areas in Belgravia must now proceed on a block-by-block basis. If you are living on a block where all day parking begins to be a problem, check out the guide, 'Belgravia's Parking Program-Do-it-Yourself Kit' on the Belgravia Community League's webpage: <http://belgraviaedmonton.ca>

Thanks to Gil Reschenthaler, past chair of the BCL T & P committee for his devoted efforts to find overall solutions to specific traffic and parking problems in the community. His stepping down at the end of the summer calls for our building-up the committee again and thinking about how traffic and parking affects the 'integrity of Belgravia as a community'.

David Ridley (president@belgraviaedmonton.ca) and Jeanette Boman (vicepresident@belgraviaedmonotn.ca) welcome Michelle Green, a resident in Belgravia since the mid-90's to the committee.

If you have an interest in the 'big picture' when it comes to traffic and parking matters in Belgravia, we sure would like to hear from you.

EDMONTON



COMMUNITY CRUISER

Ages 12-15

FIELD TRIPS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT!

Field Trips May Include Bowling, Laser Tag, Swimming and MORE!!!

FRIDAYS

February 10 – March 23, 2012

(No program March 2nd)

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Belgravia Community League

(11540 - 73 Ave)

Registration Required. Please register early as spots are limited

Cost: \$60 pays for all 6 weeks.

To REGISTER: Phone 311

COURSE CODE: 447529

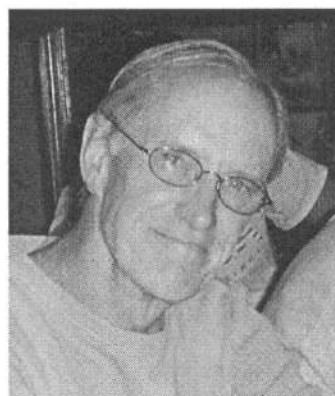
First session dress for outdoor activities.

A schedule will be handed out at the first session

This program is provided in partnership with Belgravia and Parkallen Community Leagues and the City of Edmonton.



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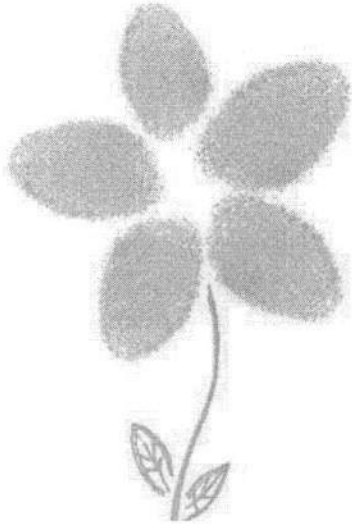
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Reflections: The Master Composter Recycler Program

Leigh-ann Topfer, City of Edmonton Volunteer

Learn to make fun things like compost tea, worm bins and lasagna gardens – and how to build better communities too!



About this time last year I noticed an ad for the **Master Composter Recycler Program** (MCRP), offered by the City of Edmonton. I confess my interest was purely selfish. Compost, I knew, was great for gardens, but my home compost bins were sorry piles of semi-rotten vegetables, liberally laced with coffee grounds, and topped with fall leaves. Somehow the rich dark “black gold” that was supposed to magically appear - hadn’t. Here was my chance to find out how to compost – and for free! Learning about recycling was appealing too – though I was already a, some would say, fervent recycler and pretty sure I’d ace that part of the course. I checked the MCRP web site, and without thinking too much about it, submitted my application form.

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McKernan/ University area

780-424-3385 or email kochr97@gmail.com

After the first class I realized that the program is much more than learning how to compost, and not just a crash course in waste management. It is all about how we can each make Edmonton a greener and better city. The classes included terrific presentations by local experts and MCRP graduates. We learned a lot about garbage –how we can save energy and the environment (as well as money) by reducing the amount of garbage we produce. We learned about what makes a “livable” city. Some of the sessions were workshops (my favourite - the day we made worm bins and watched demonstrations of different composting system); others were field trips (the Edmonton Waste Management Centre is truly impressive). Most importantly, we learned about the many City of Edmonton resources for waste management and sustainable living, and how to help promote these resources in our own communities.

This year’s Master Composter Recycler Program runs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and all day Saturday, from April 10 through 28.

If you are interested in becoming a fellow Master Composter Recycler:

1. Check the MCRP web site at: www.edmonton.ca/mcrp or call (780) 496-5991 for more information and the online application form.
2. Apply before March 7, 2012.
3. Learn lots and enjoy the program!



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Edmonton Home and Garden Show,
March 22-26 • Thursday to Sunday**



Embracing our Winter City

Ben Henderson, City of Edmonton Ward 8 Councillor

Winter took its time arriving, but Edmontonians are ushering in the season with more festivals and activities than ever! As Edmontonians, we wear our winter hardiness like a badge of honour, and I have been working on the City of Edmonton's WinterCity Strategy to highlight how we can further embrace winter and step into our role as a leading winter city we can all be proud of.

How do you celebrate Edmonton winters? For the outdoor enthusiasts, both sides of the River Valley are lined with a natural belt of two dozen parks perfect for snowshoeing and snow angels. There are 97 km of natural and groomed cross-country ski trails as well as downhill ski hills, toboggan hills, and picturesque skating rinks. And don't miss out on the beautiful northern lights in the evenings!

We are also very lucky to enjoy a number of new and returning winter festivals this year, most are free admission:

- Metropolis Edmonton International Winter Festival (eventsedmonton.ca) at Churchill Square (Dec.31 – Feb. 20);
- Ice on Whyte (iceonwhyte.ca) international ice sculpture festival (Jan. 12-22),
- Winter Light Festival (winterlight.ca) featuring the Mill Creek Adventure Walk (Jan.27-28) and
- Silver Skate Festival (silverskatefestival.org) in Hawrelak Park (Feb. 17-20); and
- Yukigassen (snowbattle.ca) snowball battle (Mar. 9-11).

With the Alberta blue skies and the bright sunlight reflecting off the white snow, get outside with friends and family and soak up some winter fun in Edmonton.

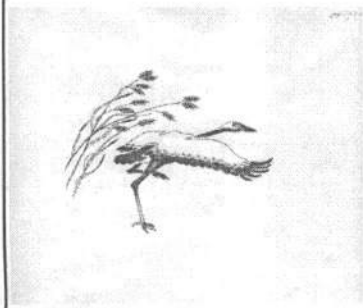
As always, I welcome hearing from you at ben.henderson@edmonton.ca or 780.496.8146.

Karate and Yoga Classes at Belgravia Community League
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays
(11540-73 Avenue)

One month of free classes!
Free Karate uniform on enrollment!

for more information
contact Ken or Jennifer at
kenanjen@shaw.ca or 780
707 3693

The Northern River Karate School
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SOFTBALL

South Edmonton Minor Softball
2012 REGISTRATION

25-FEB Sat 10-4 Yellowhead Community Hall 107 St & 19 Ave	26-FEB Sun 1-3 Millwoods Rec Centre 72 St & 36 Ave	25-FEB Wed 6-9 Yellowhead Community Hall 107 St & 19 Ave	10-MAR Sat 12-2 St. Mary's School Gym 70 St & 36 Ave	10-MAR Sat 1-3 Yellowhead Community Hall 107 St & 19 Ave	10-MAR Thurs 6-8 Yellowhead Community Hall 107 St & 19 Ave
17-MAR Sat 10-4 St. Mary's School Gym 70 St & 36 Ave	22-MAR Thurs 6-8 Millwoods Rec Centre 72 St & 36 Ave	25-MAR Sun 1-3 Millwoods Rec Centre 72 St & 36 Ave			

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Opportunity to experience the Sport of Softball & Develop Skills. Open to New and Returning Players.

Dates & Locations posted on our Web Site:
www.southedmontonminorssoftball.ca

INTERESTED IN COACHING ???

Let us know at Registration.

INTERESTED IN BEING AN UMPIRE?

Find out how to earn extra Cash.

NOTE:

Squirts & older must supply their own batting helmet

CATEGORY	YEAR OF BIRTH	GAME DAYS	FEES
T-BALL	2006, 2007	TUES / THURS	\$105
COACH PITCH	2004, 2005	MON / WED	\$105
MITES (U10)	2002, 2003	TUES / THURS	\$125
SQUIRTS (U12)	2000, 2001	MON / WED	\$140
PEEWEEES (U14)	1998, 1999	TUES / THURS	\$140
BANTAMS (U16)	1996, 1997	MON / WED	\$160
MOGGETS (U19)	1990, 1994, 1995	TUES / THURS	\$160

What will you need to Register?

- Valid Community League Membership
- Cheques for Registration, Uniform Deposit, & Fund Raiser

For more information, call 780-295-1117 or visit our website

www.southedmontonminorssoftball.ca

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are urgently needed to help coordinate several upcoming events:

- Wine and cheese evening with local talent (March)
- Perennial and seed exchange (May)
- Belgravia Garden Tour (early June)
- Champagne in the Park/Arts Park Launch (June)
- Movie Night in the Park (August)

* Dates are tentative *

If you can help, please contact Barb at 780-430-1220 or email bkrahn@belgraviaedmonton.ca as soon as possible. Events without adequate volunteer support will regretfully be cancelled.

40+ Volunteers Needed (18+)

For the upcoming 2012 Casino:

Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17

at the Baccarat Casino (10128 - 104 Avenue)

no experience necessary / "on the job" training
day shift 11- 7 or night shift 7- 3 / only one shift expected
positions include: banker / cashier / chip runner / count room
meet your neighbors / bring - a - neighbor / meal provided
it's a fun, fascinating, facilitating, and funding experience

For more info or to "Sign-up" contact Reg Norby, Casino Coordinator by email: norby@shaw.ca or by phone: 780-436-0590 and indicate your contact phone number and email and the shift or shifts you are able to volunteer for:

Shift "A": 11am - 7pm, Monday, April 16

Shift "B": 7pm - 3am, Monday, April 16

Shift "C": 11am - 7pm, Tuesday, April 17

Shift "D": 7pm - 3am, Tuesday, April 17

The Casino Shift Schedule will be set up in early April and you will be contacted as to your assigned job and (day or night) shift.