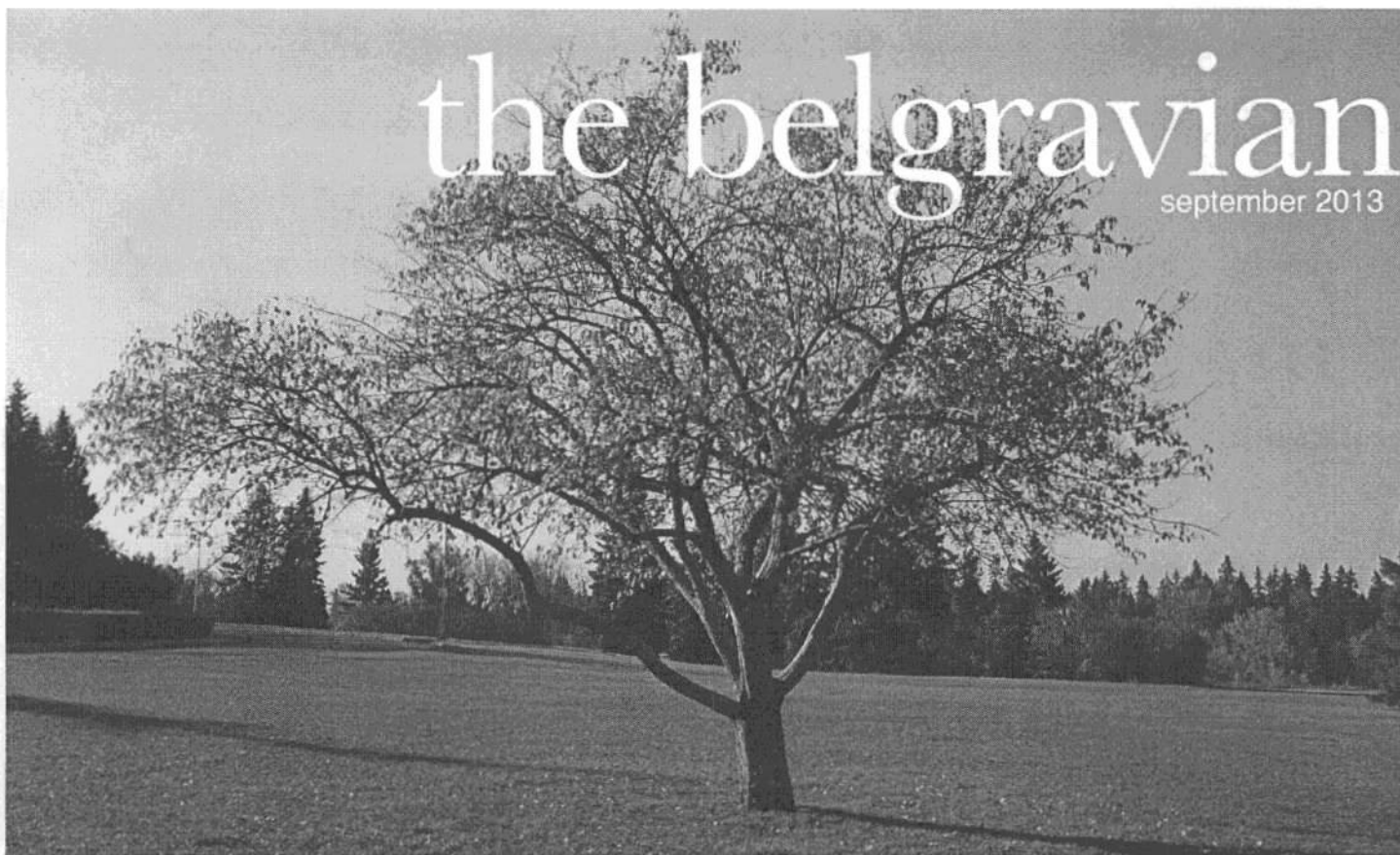


the belgravian

september 2013



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Belgravia Community Hall:
11540—73 Avenue

Published September, October, November/December, January/February, March/April, May, and June by the Belgravia Community League

Printed on recycled paper. Please remember to recycle this newsletter.

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

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

Community League Day: Belgravia BBQ and Caribbean Dance Party!

Sarah Chan, the Belgravian Editor

It's back to school and the Belgravian is likewise glad to be back!

On community league day (September 21st), all community leagues across the city plan their own parties and events to celebrate their neighbourhoods. This year, Belgravia has a new programs coordinator and we're putting a twist on our usual BBQ with the addition of the band, CATALYST!

This all-ages calypso/raggae band will keep the summer spirit alive in our rink area, alongside some yummy BBQ.

Your fine crew here at the BCL have got the details down, but the way you make our party complete is by 1. Attending with your family and 2. Purchasing your community league membership!

To make things a little more fun for you members, your purchase/renewal also enters you into a draw for gift certificates from our local eatery, the Belgravia Hub, who are generously giving back to the neighbourhood.

Plus, your membership is what gains you free access to the BBQ. Remember that your BCL loves you, so don't be afraid to reciprocate and share the love! Memberships are a big priority for us this year and we're going to keep on coming back for you. No Belgravian left behind, we say!

Full details about our party extraordinaire can be found on the back page, so flip this issue over to read more about September 21st and how you might be able to offer your services as a volunteer.

See you in the rink!

from the editor's desk...



Sarah Chan, the Belgravian Editor

Oh, do we ever have an exciting fall for you! Over the summer, we little BCL worker bees have been working on how to better connect with Belgravians, so that we can more effectively keep in touch

with the goings-on in our beloved neighbourhood, and to further foster our community spirit.

We are pleased to inform you that we are now on twitter, and can be found @belgraviaYEG.

We have also started blogging at belgraviacommunityleague.blogspot.com. Bear with us as we got the blog and main website connected, and as we learn the ropes around sharing posting responsibilities.

With the blog format, we can update you more frequently on our event, digital versions of the Belgravian, and also share photos and stories in a reader-friendly format.

If that web stuff doesn't appeal to you, we are also happy to report that we're going from last year's publication of *the Belgravian* of 5 issues to 7 issues. As a community league, we're committed to our communication with our Belgravians!

Our neighbourhood is a unique one, what with our LRT station and proximity to the University and our river valley trails. Plus, we're a mature neighbourhood too! We have experienced much in terms of change, but there is more to come.

We're going to be experiencing infill development, which needs to be handled expertly; There is a mayoral race, where we need to think about whose leadership reflects our vision for Edmonton; We have safety and

security issues with our portion of the river bank; We have a small and mighty school that continues to evade the school closure chopping block; We have unique mix of residents, from the elderly, young families, empty nesters, students, and renters; And, our community league hall is getting a renovation!

Suffice to say, there are more reasons than ever to stick together and stay in touch. Here at *the Belgravian* we endeavour to keep you up to speed on our neighbourhood news and announcements!

Belgravia Community League Contacts

President	Jeanette Boman	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President	Pending	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Treasurer	Peter Hooper	treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Secretary	Sheila O'Brien	secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Past President	David Ridley	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Transportation	Vacant	transportation@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Membership	Vacant	membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facility & Maint.	Kornel Korvats	hallmaintenance@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Planning & Dev.	Rob Tarulli	planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Programs	Kim Kelly	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Hall Rental	Jennifer & Doug Klein	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com
Rink Manager	Jim Sawada	rinkmanager@belgravia.edmonton.ca
Director-at-large	Barb Krahn	barb.krahn@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-large	Dale Rowe	dale.rowe@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-large	Kevin Klein	kevin.klein@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Hall Renewal	Kevin Taft	kevin.taft@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Newsletter	Jessica Jackson	newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

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101 Reasons to join the Belgravia Community League!

Jeanette Boman, BCL President

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues starts the list on their web page saying it is great way to:

- Meet your neighbours & make new friends
- Access educational programs and physical activity opportunities within Belgravia
- Get membership rates on hall rentals
- Have a say in facility and park development, traffic management, & urban planning
- Make use of City recreation centers for annual and multi-admission passes: Present your valid Edmonton community league membership card at any one of the City of Edmonton's sports and fitness facilities and get a 10% discount on: 1) Adult, Family, Child, and Youth/Senior Annual Passes; 2) Multi admission passes; and, 3) on-going monthly membership passes
- Develop safety programs and crime watch cooperation within the neighbourhood
- Plan parties and social gatherings for children, parents, Young adults and seniors

Over the years, the Belgravia Community League in particular has played an important role in:

- Helping establish out-of-school care in the community and supporting the operation of the parent cooperative playschool in the hall building the current state-of-the-art playgrounds

- Working out a unique partnership with the City and the Edmonton Arts Council to establish the Arts Park with the acquisition of public art, establishment of native perennial and fruit tree and shrub beds as well as the labyrinth.

With plans underway for the hall renewal, we want to make the Belgravia Community League more relevant than ever for everyone. One of our goals will be to get people of all ages wondering 'What's going on at the hall?' and to see it as the heart of where we live and play ... a place where we can turn to each other have those conversations that sustain us and restore our hopes for the future.

So these are the first 10 reasons why joining the Belgravia Community League is a great idea... and there are 91 more waiting to be discovered starting with the September 21, 2013 Community League BBQ and Caribbean music. See you there!

Linda Duncan MP, Edmonton-Strathcona

Working for our community

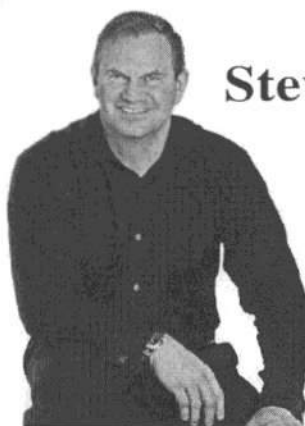
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Belgravia Elementary School's Ever Active Update

Kim Kelly, Ever Active Committee Chair



Our end of year survey results indicated that 98% of respondents wanted our health promoting school program to continue throughout the 2013-14 school year. As well, **98%** felt Belgravia Ever Active initiatives have improved **community engagement** and 88.5% felt Belgravia EA has improved the **health of our school community**. Thank you to our volunteers and participants for making this program a success!

The goals of Belgravia Ever Active have been and will continue to be to improve the health of the school

community by influencing healthy eating, active living and mental well-being.

Some initiatives planned for **all community members** include: Elk Island Hike (Sept. 22), Skating Party (Winter break), and Bike Day (Spring).

ELK ISLAND HIKE will take place on Sunday, September 22nd (the morning after our Belgravia Community BBQ and Dance). Pack a picnic lunch for a hot dog roast after our hike. Meet in the parking lot at Tawayik (first left after the Bison Loop Road) at 10:00 a.m.

Other initiatives for the year will include our Walking School Bus, school clubs supporting activity, and the promotion of healthy snacks by providing monthly apples to our students and staff.

We would greatly appreciate your **donation** of delicious neighbourhood **APPLES!** Please email me at kpkelly@ualberta.ca if you can provide approximately 160 apples to our school.



30 front yards in Belgravia were nominated this year in the City's Front Yards in Bloom competition. Rennie and Hennie Woudstra's front yard on 115 Street and 72 Avenue was an Award of Merit winner! In case you haven't had a chance to walk by it yet, here is what to look for ...

Our Valuable Urban Forest

Ben Henderson, Ward 8 Councillor

Edmonton's urban forest represents a significant municipal asset. Almost 300,000 publicly owned trees enhance our boulevards, roadways and parks. The estimated dollar value of the average boulevard tree is between \$2,400 and \$8,000. An elm tree over 40 inches in diameter can be worth as much as \$65,000. Collectively Edmonton's trees are valued at over \$1.2 billion. Unlike our other depreciating infrastructure, trees actually increase in value over time.

One of the comments we hear from visitors to Edmonton is the beauty of our urban forest. Trees most certainly improve quality of life in a busy urban environment.

Urban forests have a multitude of benefits. Trees improve air and water quality, help reduce erosion and storm water runoff, and provide wonderful shade in hot weather. Trees provide habitat and corridors of safety for birds and animals. While trees play only a small role in noise mitigation, they are wonderful at enhancing a sense of residential privacy. Most of all, trees add to the aesthetic beauty of neighbourhoods.

Almost 45% of the trees in Edmonton are growing on private property in residential and business areas. Citizens play a vital role in growing and preserving our urban forest for future generations.

A forest that is diverse in both age and in variety of species is better able to withstand stressors like insect and disease infestations as well as windstorms.

Environmental Services follows Integrated Pest Management procedures to control urban forest pests. Using this approach, they identify, monitor and, when necessary, suppress pests using economically and environmentally sound practices.

Beautification and naturalization encourages the growth of grassroots beautification, natural environments and greening of the City through such strategies as Partners in Parks, Community Gardens, Community in Bloom, and Naturalization. These partnerships are key to involving citizens in growing Edmonton's forest.

You can do your part to help boulevard trees grow bigger and live longer:

- To report damage, call 311
- Keep nails, screws and wires away
- Check soil moisture before you water
- Use a plant friendly sidewalk de-icer
- Only clean sidewalks with water

To find out more about Trees in Edmonton, go to www.edmonton.ca and search 'Trees' 'Forestry' or 'Urban Forest'. You can also email citytrees@edmonton.ca. And you can always contact me at ben.henderson@edmonton.ca

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Hall Renewal Moves to Next Phase

Kevin Taft, Hall Renewal Committee

The Belgravia Hall Renewal Committee keeps working away. After a careful process we have selected an architecture firm to help develop and assess initial concepts for the hall. The firm is called Newstudio.

We'll work with them on questions like these: Does the hall need to be demolished and replaced? Can we afford that? What about a major renovation and addition to the current building? Or perhaps follow many other leagues and build a small second building to handle specific functions?

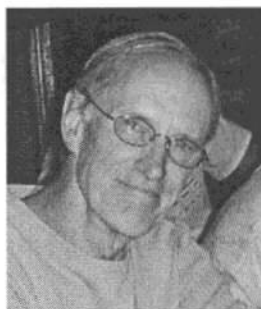
The options need to be carefully considered. We need to judge them all by the results from the community workshops held in the spring.

Our timeline? On September 21, Community League Day, we plan to have three options to present to the community. We'll be there along with the firm to answer

questions and get comments. In October, we will recommend one option to the Community League for more detailed design work. Even if everything goes smoothly, nothing will be done to the current hall until the second half of 2014 at the earliest.

So come out on Community League Day, September 21, and see what the future could hold for our community hall!

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Belgravia Community Member Earns Alumni Horizon Award

Liz Lepper, Bottomline Productions

Community members are invited to attend a free awards event!

The University of Alberta Alumni Association is pleased to announce that Belgravia community member **Tom Yonge** will receive an **Alumni Horizon Award** Wednesday, **September 25**, 2013, at the annual **Alumni Recognition Awards**.

Tom Yonge, '04 BEd, '04 BPE, is inspiring a new generation of volunteers and making a big difference in the lives of his students. When Yonge joined the staff of Edmonton's Strathcona High School, the school leadership program involved only 36 students. By creating engaging and meaningful experiences, he has expanded enrolment almost tenfold, and the program is so popular some students opt to take sessions on weekends. At the heart of Yonge's leadership model is service work. With his involvement, Strathcona's leadership program has raised more than \$265,000 for charitable organizations, while his students have learned important life lessons and the emotional reward of giving back. For his positive impact on

his students and his community, he was recently named by *Avenue* magazine as one of Edmonton's "Top 40 Under 40."

The Alumni Association **invites all community members** to celebrate this outstanding alumna's accomplishments and those of 34 other award recipients at the 2013 Alumni Recognition Awards.

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Location: Winspear Centre (99 Street & 102 Avenue)

Time: 6:30pm, General seating begins in Enmax Hall, the main performance chamber

7:00pm, Alumni Recognition Awards ceremony

8:30pm, Complimentary champagne reception

Cost: Free, register at:

www.alumni.ualberta.ca/events/alumni-weekend

Dress: Business attire

The **Alumni Horizon Award** celebrates the outstanding achievements of University of Alberta alumni early in their careers.

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 780-492-3324 or alumni@ualberta.ca.

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Neighbourhood Nosh at Belgravia Hub



Sarah Chan, the Belgravian Editor

When I first rode past Belgravia Hub and it had its windows open and dining room full, I felt prouder than ever to live in our neighbourhood. Thanks to chef and owner Leslie McGlennon, for having the vision to create a place where Belgravians can congregate over a hot plate of food and a glass of wine - Finally!

When I sat down with chef Sarah Masters-Phillips, her enthusiasm about the community rallying around the restaurant was evident, "We want people to feel like they are coming and being part of our space!"

Masters-Phillips also adds that the kitchen and staff are an extended family for her, as she is found at the restaurant more often than not. This is a family affair for McGlennon too, with one of her daughters working as a server, and her other daughter helping out as a hostess when it's busy. McGlennon actually has three daughters altogether, and they are often onsite, checking in with their mom before service or grabbing a bite of dinner.

With regards to the menu, Masters-Phillips says that new items are created in a casual and

collaborative way. Of the current flank and taters, she says, "I wanted to make a warm potato salad and Leslie wanted to do a flank steak," so they combined their ideas, and created the popular summer dish.

As we head into the fall, Masters-Phillips muses about a potential meatless meatloaf, "since we want to be well rounded" and cater to all diners. Regardless of new menu items, she also feels strongly that the blackened chicken will stay on the menu. It is one of the most popular items from week to week.

"We don't have a specific niche on food - It's stylized comfort food," she concludes. "I believe in using the best possible products, and then we showcase them."

Belgravia Hub is happy to now be a part of our community, and is starting to recognize our names and faces. "Having built-in friends in the neighbourhood... it's really nice when people are excited to see you!" Masters-Phillips enthuses. So the next time you're passing by, wave into the window and chances are somebody will be smiling back from the kitchen window.

Better yet, go inside and enjoy an extension of your community over something tasty. Based on what I saw of the kitchen, you can bet it's real, fresh food.

Rules of the Winter-Free Road



Ben Henderson, Ward 8 Councillor

The City of Edmonton is proud to launch the third season of our bike awareness and education campaign, "Let's Get There Together." This campaign encourages cyclists and motorists to watch out for each other and share the road, to ensure that everyone arrives to their

destination safely.

Edmonton currently offers 86 kilometers of cycling routes, with another 20 kilometers to be installed this summer. These numbers are in line to achieve our goal of 500 kilometers of installed bike lanes within the next 10-20 years.

As cyclists become a greater percentage of the commuter demographic, cyclists and motorists, alike, should be fully aware of the safety guidelines surrounding the various types of bicycle routes within our city. Some of these routes are reserved bike lanes, while others are shared-use lanes. A reserved bike lane designates a specific right-of-way for cyclists. It is separated by a solid white line and is marked with an image of a bicycle and a white diamond. Motorists are not supposed to drive, stop, or park inside a bike lane. However, they can cross the bike lane

when turning into driveways or access ways. They can also cross a bike lane when parking is permitted between the bike lane and the curb. New to our streets are the buffered bike zones. The buffered zone adds more space between cyclists and motorists, making cycling on busier streets easier.

Shared-use lanes are different from bike lanes. They indicate that the roadways are shared between motorists and cyclists. A shared-use lane guides cyclists on the road and reminds drivers to expect cyclists in their travel lane. They are identified by an image of a bicycle capped by a pair of arrows called sharrows.

Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists and are not obligated to use bike lanes or shared-use lanes. For both motorists and cyclists, knowing how to use these on-street bike routes, or operate around them, is key to keeping everyone safe. Commuters of all modes of transportation should signal, be predictable, and give each other appropriate spacing to operate safely.

Throughout the summer, you will see ads on buses, in newspapers and online with bike awareness and education messages. I encourage Edmontonians to visit Edmonton.ca/together for detailed information about new bike routes and how to safely use them. Safe cycling!



With: Dan Skakun

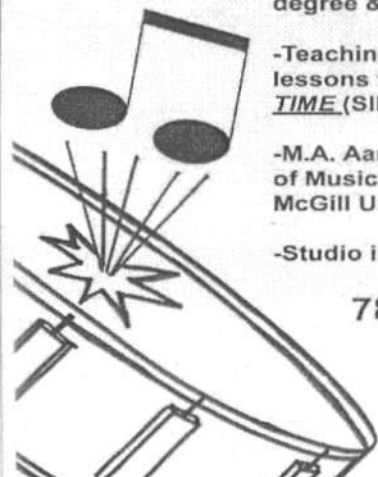
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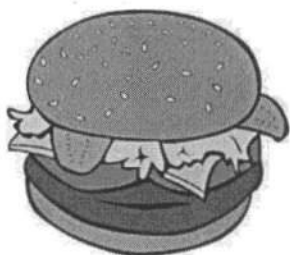
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- (iii) "the let's get this party started" set-up crew (3 - 4 p.m.)
- (iv) "the best party ever!" take-down crew (7:45 - 8:30 p.m.)

Memberships will be sold on site 4 - 8 p.m.
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