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Belgravia Community Hall

11540 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0G1

Next Submission Deadline

March 18, 2016

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

Visit us online at belgraviaedmonton.ca

BCL Family Day 2015 at the Park

Thanks to Annette Stupar-Cairns for arranging the kicksled, snow activities, hot chocolate and wiener roast (and to Ken Goble for a great fire with old dry wood he salvaged from the old hall bound for the landfill), many families and neighbours turned out for some good conversation and fun in the snow on February 15 ... the kicksled and blowing bubbles were a real hit. More photos on the BCL Webpage (<http://belgraviaedmonton.ca>).

Next Belgravia Community League Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 9 @7 PM.
For details email:
president@belgraviaedmonton.ca

BCL Board & Community Contacts		
Past President	Jeanette Boman	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Vice President	Heather Scherer	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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2. Hall Rental Coordinator	Liz Yih	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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1. End of the World Committee	Roger Laing	edmontoneotw@gmail.com
2. Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com
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1. City Recreation Coordinator	Kate Russell	kate.russell@edmonton.ca
2. Belgravia Elementary Sch. Liaison	David Shanks	daveshanks@me.com
3. South Campus Neighbourhood Coalition BCL Rep	Bob Kamp	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca
UofA Comm Consultation	Cory Dawson	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca

A Horrific Smell

As many Belgravians, we live near the river valley and yes, we experience skunks. Skunks only become objectionable performing a horrific smell when they are being threatened. Skunks are wonderful mouse catchers. I am told there are an abundance of mice in Belgravia due to the construction in the neighbourhood. The mice homes are disturbed and the mice have to find new homes. Usually skunks sleep during the day and come out at dusk for their evening activities.

A neighbour's lovable dog was disturbed during the night and woke his owner. Her owner thought his dog needed to urgently pee and let her out in their yard. Alas, De Sales, his dog, was attracted by movement in his yard; unwittingly a skunk. Immediately, the frightened skunk had defended himself by spraying the innocent dog with an unbelievable horrific smell. Within seconds, De Sales, our friend's dog, was in the house. The smell and the agony of the poor dog had overwhelmed her owner. The owner managed to Google and determine what remedy was necessary to alleviate the pain in the dog's eyes as a result of the skunk's spray. De Sales' owner dressed and drove at midnight to Rexall Drugs and purchased baking soda, peroxide, dish detergent, and tomato juice.

It took several days for the smell to lessen on De Sales and her eyes to be less painful. De Sales suddenly looked older as a result of the peroxide being applied around her muzzle, whitening her velvety fur.

Now, De Sales' owner will never allow his dog out at night without being on a leash. We hope that other pet owners in Belgravia will do the same after reading this anecdote.

Please respect the black and white cuddly skunks in our river valley who innocently wonder into our gardens. Remember they usually only come out at dusk and it is fear that grants them their defensive smell and this is their protection.

Wendy M. Davis

Message From Belgravia School Principal, Rodney French

I have enjoyed a warm welcome from everyone in the community since being appointed the new principal to Belgravia last April. Switching schools, making connections with you and getting down to the construction phase of the modernization project have kept me hopping.

I would like to take this opportunity to give the Belgravia community an overview of the Belgravia School modernization project. Here are the main elements of the newly completed project and how they will affect our school operations.

The primary aspects of the 2.2 million dollar project were to upgrade the mechanical/electrical systems and replace the roof. Specifically, the boiler was replaced together with new piping and air handling systems. The main electrical distribution panel was replaced and new LED lighting was put in classrooms, the office area and the gym. Structural changes included pouring a concrete crawlspace underneath the school, levelling of classroom floors, replacing the waterproofing membrane and upgrading the roof insulation.

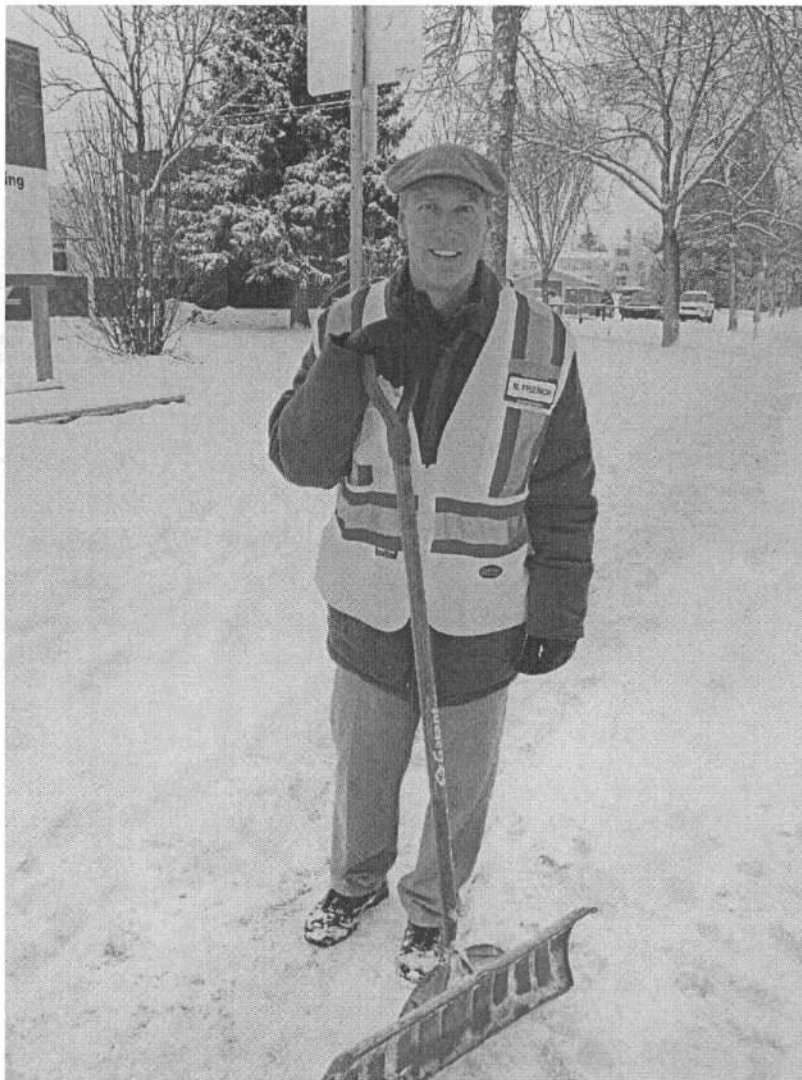
Due to our increasing student enrollment which is currently 143 students, the library was modified and a foldable partition added to allow for an additional smaller classroom. This feature alone will allow us to have a student capacity of 160 students or one class at each grade from kindergarten to grade six if student numbers warrant.

In addition to the above upgrades, the office area, classrooms and library all got new carpet, teacher desks and some shelving. The gym also got electrical upgrades, paint, and sound/projector systems that were long overdue.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that our Kindergarten/Grade 1 Information Night is coming up March 10th, 6 to 7 pm and that our 60th Anniversary celebration will be April 28 from approximately 3 to 6 pm. Please contact the school at 780 435 5560 if you would like more information.

I am excited to be part of the Belgravia learning community and I look forward to working in partnership with you.

Sincerely,
Rodney French
Principal
Belgravia School



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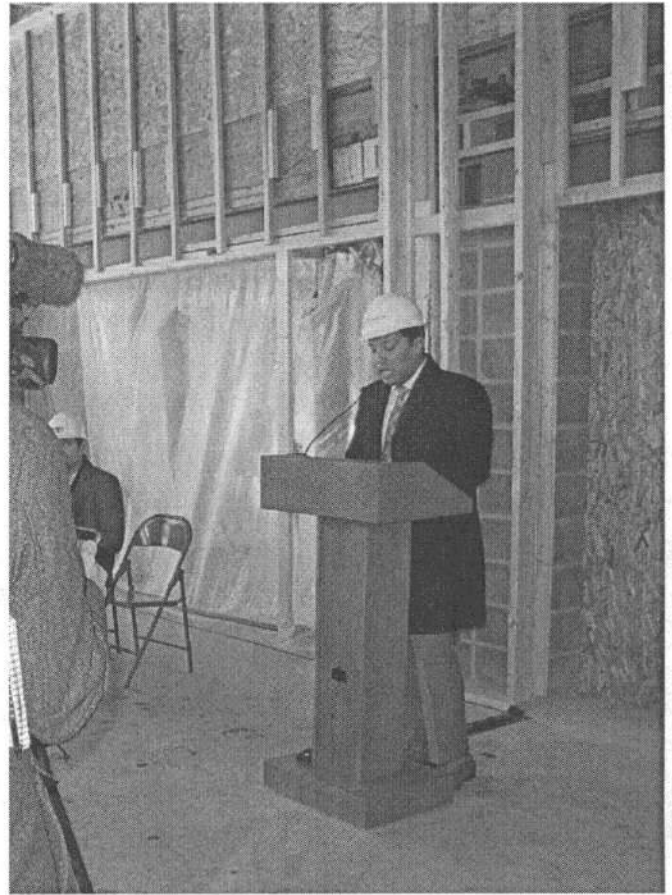
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Culture and Tourism Event

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ricardo Miranda chose the BCL Hall Renewal project as a site to feature provincial funds given to community facility enhancement projects (CFEP Grants) throughout Alberta every year. The BCL Hall Renewal Committee's Michale Cohen and Kevin Taft filled out the grant last year for \$200,000 and this year, another one for \$70,000. All of these are matching grants so none of this money would be possible if not for the contributions made by Belgravia residents as well.

Minister Ricardo Miranda made the point that such provincial funds help make projects like the BCL Hall Renewal possible and create jobs as well. Pemco Construction hosted the event by ensuring the site was clean and safe with coffee on site from Gracious Goods. Newstudio Architects and Laviolette Engineering Ltd were on hand to answer questions about their part in the project too.



"Miss Monica', our BCL Playschool teacher arranged a Construction Site Field Trip for the play school children that day. Each child came with a question and a drawing about construction sites. Kevin Lapes and Ozzie from Pemco and Minister Miranda had a lot of fun reading each question and did their very best to answer them.

For media coverage of the event, check out:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-non-profits-get-10-5m-in-provincial-grant-funding-1.3444139>

<http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/non-profit-sector-given-10-5-million-in-alberta-government-grants>



Lawn Bowls.... A Sport for Life

Lawn bowls is one of the oldest English sports believed to have first been played in the 13th century. It was the expansion of the British Empire that saw the introduction of bowls to other nations. The Scots organized the sport in the mid 1800's and early in 1900 the world lawn bowls organization was established. Lawn bowls continues to be is a worldwide competitive sport played in over 40 countries and is one of the sports of the Commonwealth Games. Lawn bowling began in Edmonton in 1845 and in its heyday there were 11 lawn bowling clubs in our city. Today there are 3 unique clubs remaining, the Royal, Highlands and Commonwealth.

Bowls is a relatively easy game to play, the object being to roll your bowls down a smooth green to get as close as possible to a small white ball called a jack. Unlike other lawn or indoor bowling games a lawn bowl has a weighted side and travels in an arc making it similar to curling. The low impact sport of lawn bowling enjoyed by players ages 9-90, is a great social sport and will get you outside in the fresh air and sunshine. At the competitive level endurance, flexibility and strategy are crucial.

On Sunday, May 29th 10-4 pm, all 3 Edmonton clubs will be hosting their annual Open House. This is an opportunity to have a free introductory lesson, look around at each club's greens and clubhouse and meet their members. The fees for this sport are relatively low and all clubs have bowls for newcomers to use free of charge. All that is required is smooth soled heelless shoes and comfortable clothing.

If you are looking for a fun, competitive sport that is easy to play but challenging to master check the websites below for the location of each club and more information about the sport its members love.

Commonwealth Lawn Bowling Club www.commonwealthbowls.ca

Royal Lawn Bowling Club www.royalbowls.ca

Highlands Lawn Bowling Club www.highlandsbowls.com

WINDSOR PARK PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

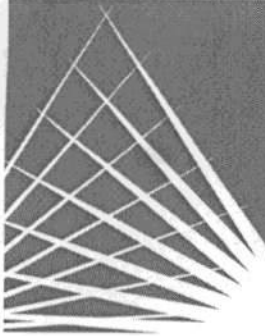
Wednesday March 16, 2016

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Windsor Park Community League
11840 - 87 Avenue

Now accepting 3 & 4 Year Old Registrations!

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 be fun activities for the children & refreshments provided.



BUILDING GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS



BELGRAVIA NEIGHBOURHOOD RECONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

6:30-8:30 p.m. (Presentation 7 p.m.)

Queen Alexandra School (7730 106 Street)

Belgravia residents and property owners are invited to learn about neighbourhood reconstruction scheduled to begin in 2017.

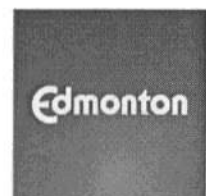
The section of McKernan from University Avenue to 76 Avenue and 114 Street Service Road to 116 Street is included in Belgravia's neighbourhood reconstruction. Residents and property owners in this area are also invited to this meeting.

City staff will:

- Explain how the City is investing in the neighbourhood.
- Share preliminary neighbourhood designs.
- Go over sidewalk and decorative streetlight local improvements and related costs.

You will have the chance to give input on: preliminary designs; pedestrian and cyclist accessibility; traffic accessibility; and overall neighbourhood livability.

edmonton.ca/buildinggreatneighbourhoods



TOWN HALL WITH HONOURABLE LORI SIGURDSON

You're invited! Come have a
conversation with your MLA for
Edmonton-Riverview
All welcome - Hope to see you!

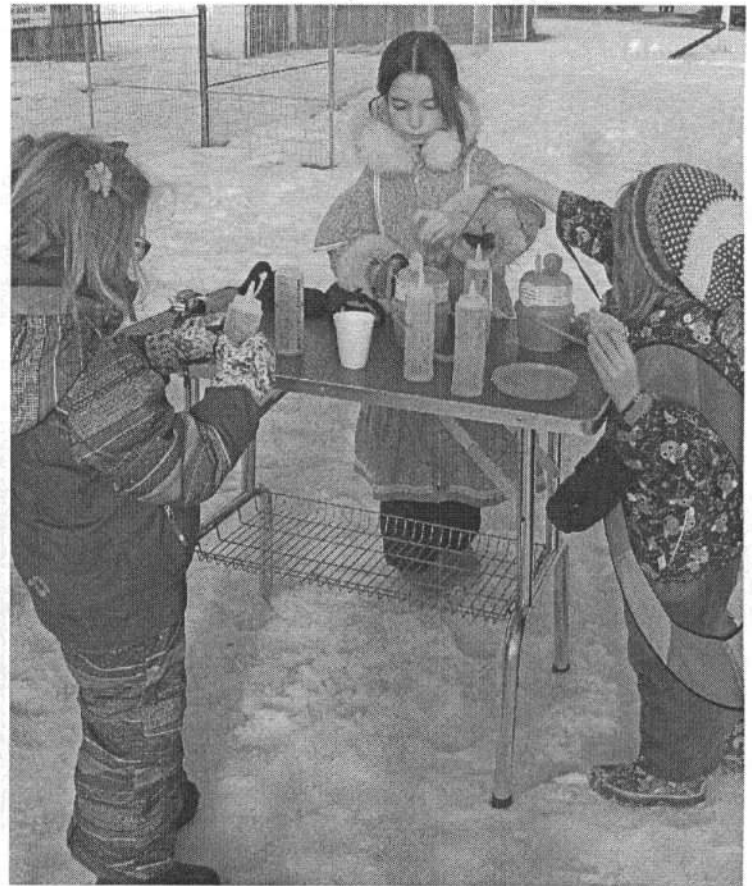


Location: Lendrum Hall 11335-57 Ave NW

Date: Tuesday, March 22nd

Time: 7:00PM-9:00PM

Light refreshments will be provided



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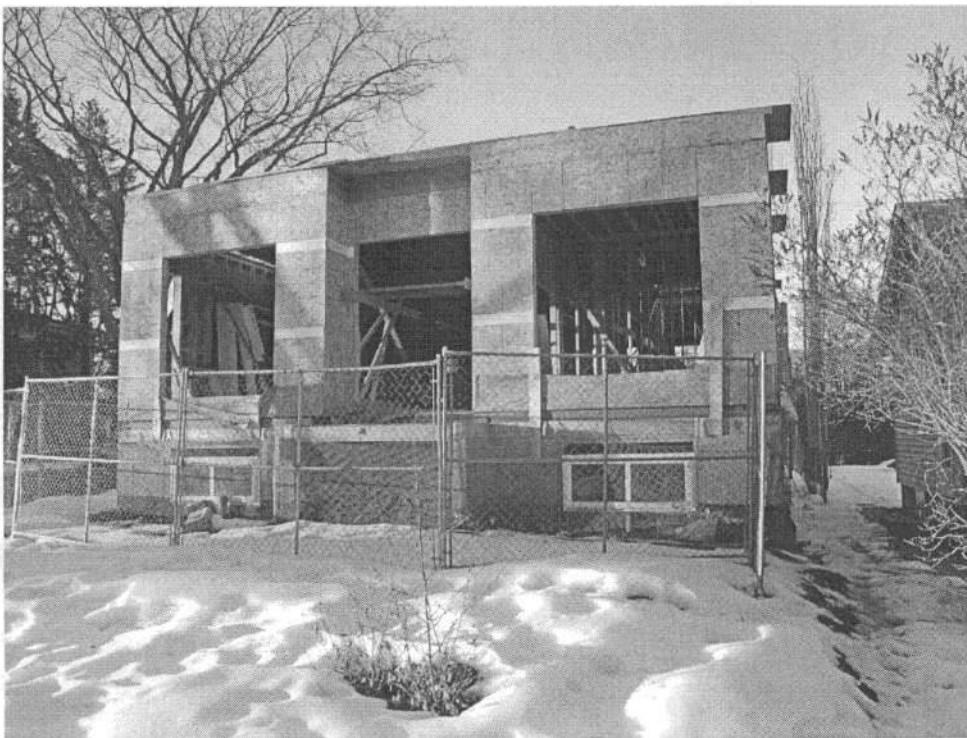
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Keeping an Eye on In-Fill

If you've walked by the corner of 75 Avenue and 116 Street you will have seen a stalled infill structure. Anyone who has lived beside a demolition and rebuilding project could probably list the things that make it easier to live through the experience: the neighbours know it is going to happen before the demolition crew turns up; big bin on site for construction debris; security fence surrounds site for public safety; and building permits are displayed on fence so you know what has been approved is actually being built. Because of the disruption to alley and front street access, everyone who lives through and with an infill project appreciates when it is done in a timely manner.

The 75 Ave/116 St project has been problematic from the beginning. Because the original building permit obtained called for no variances, neighbours in the 60 m zone were not notified. Once the foundation was dug and built however, a higher basement elevation than what is allowed and a deficient right side setback were noticeable. A request was made by the BCL for the Residential Compliance team to investigate and eventually a stop work order was put in place. Since then, the owner/builder requested a new building permit to allow the structure to remain 'as built'. The new permit requires two variances. The surrounding neighbours and the BCL were concerned about the drainage problems in particular for the neighbours immediately to the east.



When the Development Officer denied the request for a new permit, the owner/builder submitted an appeal to the Subdivision and Appeal Board. While the appeal was granted, the strong neighbourhood response to the case required a new survey and a drainage system design including a retaining wall to alleviate neighbouring concerns about drainage from the site. The 8.6 m height allowances of the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay, required a redesign

of the house. We have been assured the City will be keeping tabs on compliance with this particular project.

It pays to keep an eye on infill popping up and around in the community. Contact planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca if you have any concerns or questions about building projects near you.

Meet Your Neighbour - Yvonne Collinson



Anyone who has moved into the neighbourhood within a block of 116 St. and 76 Ave. has probably met Yvonne Collinson when she arrived at their door with a warm welcome and probably some cookies or muffins. Yvonne and her husband Don Fleming moved into Belgravia in 1986 and raised their three sons, McKenzie, Alex and Tom here. Yvonne's latest venture is her community library.

"I first saw the idea of little community libraries in New York where they used old phone booths and newspaper kiosks to provide books for people on the street. During the folk festival, some Belgravians noticed a little library in Strathearn (set up by Joe Clair) and thought it was a great idea. I found a small cabinet with a door to keep the weather out at FIND for \$15. Jane Schlosser, a young talented neighbour cut and nailed on a back, painted and decorated it and added the instructions and we placed it under a spruce tree across from St Paul's Church. Books were added by neighbours for both kids and adults and there seems to be regular use with lots of people taking and adding books each week. The childrens' books disappear the

fastest so I go to FIND for a bag of books for \$5 to refill it every couple of weeks. Thanks to everyone who helps make this a true "community" library."

What do you like best about Belgravia?

I have the best neighbours in the whole world.

What is your favourite Edmonton restaurant?

Difficult to choose as it depends on my mood but I like Upper Crust, Khazana, Belgravia Hub, Chianti (almost anywhere that I'm not doing the cooking)

What is your favourite vacation spot?

Wherever I am going next - this time an eclipse trip in Indonesia in March 2016

What's your favourite film?

Between The Full Monty and O Lucky Man

Who would you most like to be stuck in the elevator with?

Anyone who would talk to me and make me laugh

What is your guilty snack food pleasure?

Anything with ginger in it: cookies, tea, wine, cake, candy, stir fry

What are you reading now?

The Bhagavad Gita, Sweet Tooth and the Danish Girl

What are your words to live by?

My oldest son McKenzie recently said to me:

"Mum, life isn't fair - that's why we have to be. "

