



# the belgravian

April 2020

**Belgravia Community League**

11540 73 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6G 0G1

**Mailing address:**

P.O. Box 52202  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

**Contact us:**

Email: [info@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:info@belgraviaedmonton.ca)  
Phone: 780-437-1866 (phone currently not monitored as hall host hours cancelled)

**Hall host hours:**

Cancelled

**Visit us online:**

[@belgraviaYEG](https://twitter.com/belgraviaYEG) (twitter)  
[belgraviaedmonton](https://www.facebook.com/belgraviaedmonton) (facebook)  
<https://www.belgraviaedmonton.ca> (website)

**Next Submission Deadline:**

April 17, 2020

**Advertise in the belgravian:**

[adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

**Banner Photo:** Neighbours at the off-leash area enjoying the weather whilst social distancing.

**COVID-19 Update:**

As mandated by the Alberta state of emergency, the BCL has shut the community hall and facilities, including the external washroom, skating rink and playground. Playschool, programs & events, hall host hours, and hall rentals have all been cancelled.

Belgravia Community League has formed a COVID-19 Committee to ensure we comply with regulations and to co-ordinate a Neighbourhood Response Team that will offer “neighbourly assistance” to our community during this time. Read more details about the committee and our plans to promote neighbourliness in our community on pg. 3

**Volunteer with the Neighbourhood Response Team or request assistance****Email:**

[pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

**Call:**

**780 802 3666 (9am-4pm)**

2019/2020 BCL Board & Committees Contacts		
President	Cory Dawson	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President		vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Past President	Michael Cohen	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Secretary	Samantha Graham	secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Treasurer	Greg Jones	treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Membership Director	Susan Andrew	membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director at Large	Kevin Taft	director1@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director at Large	Christina Lau Hoang	director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director at Large	Barry Edgar	director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Planning & Place Director	Marcel Huculak	planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Transportation Committee	Jordan Hoffart	transportation@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Communications Director	Imogen Sellman	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Website administrator	Tim Janzen	webmaster@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facebook administrator	Jonathan Chan	facebook@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravian ads manager	Lena Jones	adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravian distribution team leader	Susanne Rowe	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Programs Director	Cameron McGregor	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Made in Belgravia	Jeanette Boman	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Abundant Community Committee	Cameron McGregor	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Pumpkin party, Casino	Reg & Jane Norby	norby@shaw.ca
Belgravia Playschool Chair	Charise Sherwin	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Playschool Teacher	Monika Fouad	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facilities Director		director1@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Hall rental coordinator	Jeanette Boman	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Rink manager	Simon Gosgnach	rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Arts park team leader	Kathy Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca`
Community Connections		
Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator	Kate Russell	kate.russell@edmonton.ca
Belgravia Elementary Liaison	Cory Dawson	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca
U of A community consultation	Sean Gerke	director4@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	Carley Haynes	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com

**ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 11733-87 AVE.**

Has concert/recital space for music teachers and students

- *Yamaha C2 Grand Piano*
- *Beautiful, intimate setting with seating capacity of 150*
- *Good acoustics*
- *Proximity to U of A Campus*
- *Intermission/reception space available*

For more information, please contact David Cass  
([d.cass@ualberta.ca](mailto:d.cass@ualberta.ca))

During this time of COVID-19, a family run restaurant, Chianti Cafe and Restaurant located on Whyte Ave (10501 82 Ave NW, Edmonton AB T6E 2A3) is offering 20% off all "TO GO" orders when placed through them (780-439-9829) and 25% off all bottles of wine and beer on "TO GO" orders though them as well. You can find their menu on the chiantis website: <http://www.chianticafe.ca/chianti-old-strathcona---home.html>

## BCL COVID-19 Neighbourhood Response Team

At the March meeting, the BCL board of directors decided to create a committee to help our community cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary purposes of the committee are to:

1. Assist in the coordination and delivery of “neighbourly assistance” to those in need within Belgravia via the Neighbourhood Response Team
2. Ensure that BCL operations comply with regulations imposed by Alberta’s state of emergency and other local agencies

The Neighbourhood Response Team will serve as a resource for those who need help with tasks such as grocery delivery, errands, dog walking, or snow shoveling as a result of mandatory or voluntary self-isolation, illness and social distancing measures. There are many ways you can help, even offering to chat with a neighbour over the phone! Let us know what you can offer, or what help you need.

**To reach the BCL COVID-19 Neighbourhood Response Team to either request assistance or volunteer**, email to Michael Cohen (committee chair) at [pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca) or call the committee’s cell phone at **780-802-3666** (9am-4pm)

The cell phone will be in the possession of a committee member who is ready to help.

Belgravians wishing to offer assistance will be asked to be aware of and act in accordance with measures that should be taken to protect themselves and others from the virus.

Belgravia has always been a friendly and helpful community, with many of us already helping our neighbours! In this time we encourage you to continue with this neighbourliness in the spirit of community.

Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer has encouraged citizens to "Develop a plan for what might need to change if you and your loved ones need to stay home for two weeks. Talk with your neighbours and friends to see how you can support each other if any of you are in this situation."

The Response Team encourages Belgravians to check in with neighbours who might be in need of assistance (over the phone, by email or text to follow social distancing guidelines), or to ask the Response Team to reach out to them.

Some issues you may want to plan include:

- grocery buying and other help around the home,
- compiling a document with a list of important health information,
- help with children or pets,
- coping with self-isolation or illness.

The committee is unable to deliver services that should be handled by professionals, such as advice on mental or physical health or financial needs. Please see these helpful resources as a starting point:

### **[edmonton.ca/COVID-19](https://edmonton.ca/COVID-19)**

Updates from the City of Edmonton including changes to transit and City Facilities

### **[alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19)**

Updates from Alberta Government, general information on COVID-19, travel advice, Support for Albertans, data on reported cases

### **[albertahealthservices.ca](https://albertahealthservices.ca)**

Updates from Alberta Health Services, COVID-19 online screening, general advice including ‘How to Prepare and Respond’ and ‘Help in Tough Times’ (directory of Mental Health and community support services), social distancing guidelines

### **Health Link - call 811** (available 24/7)

Trusted source of health information from Alberta Health Services.

## Volunteer with BCL... Meet Your Neighbours. Build Friendships. Help Build Community.

Belgravia Community League offers programs from art to dance, from toddlers to seniors. We advocate at City Hall; provide a drop-in place for coffee and visits; host special events; produce *the belgravian* newsletter and share updates electronically; and bring neighbours together to form our community. We have wonderful facilities, solid finances, amazing programs, and a strong team.

The BCL is run by a volunteer board, and every year we need new volunteers to help out. This year there are openings to help with:

- **Planning and Place** – Monitor development issues around the neighborhood, represent Belgravia at City workshops
- **Facilities** – Oversee maintenance of the hall, rink and surrounding areas. Keep the hall functioning by overseeing volunteers and contractors such as hall rental coordinator, hall host team, rink team, hall cleaning contract.
- **Programs** – Co-ordinate and schedule existing programs, register participants, recruit program instructors, monitor interest in new programs, work with the Special Events Co-coordinator to plan events
- **Vice President** – Assist the board of directors, learn how BCL operates to prepare for the role of president
- Positions for directors at large

Please consider stepping forward to help. If you're interested email Cory Dawson, BCL president at: [president@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:president@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

### **Programs Update**

Just last week an email was sent to our current program participants saying that we were continuing our programs at the community league hall following the direction of the Chief

Medical Officer of Alberta. Two days later, we cancelled those programs and a day later closed the hall and rink. All of our instructors were paid until the end of their contract. Each has been terrific in responding to the fast changes over the last week. Many thanks to Pat Galbraith (Soapstone), Elise Ure (Yogas and Fit for Life), Tara Mayne (Strength and Stretch) and Kirsten Bartell (NIA). The spring programs advertised in last month's newsletter will not be going ahead. We are looking forward to resuming these programs in the future.

### **Activity Suggestions**

Adjusting to staying at home and distancing ourselves from our friends and neighbours can be challenging. Here are some suggestions of activities you can do while social distancing:

- Enjoy a walk around the neighbourhood
  - Use the community walking map we recently delivered. If you need another copy see: [edmonton.ca/walkmap](http://edmonton.ca/walkmap)
- Connect with friends and family over the phone or electronically
- Create artwork and uplifting messages to display in your windows for neighbours to see as they walk by
- Many local not-for-profits have online resources:
  - **Edmonton Public Library** – has many online resources for adults and kids, both fun and educational: [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca)
  - **Edmonton Area Land Trust** – has nature themed crafts and activities: [www.ealt.ca/kids](http://www.ealt.ca/kids)
- Check out the 'Change Habits for Climate' guide produced by the City for ideas and tips on energy efficiency, waste reduction, biodiversity and more: [edmonton.ca/changeofclimate](http://edmonton.ca/changeofclimate)
- Edmonton Public School Board have created online resources for grades K-12: [www.epsbtogether.ca](http://www.epsbtogether.ca)

## Belgravia Traffic Update

The following contribution was provided by the City of Edmonton to explain technical issues that have been investigated through a traffic study. BCL raised concerns at Council in early 2019 about increased traffic problems on University Avenue due to new buildings proposed and under construction. Council agreed to commission a study. The City is nearing the end of the study and it is a good time to share the work done so far. If you have any questions or concerns about this work please contact Marcel Huculak, Belgravia's Planning and Place Director, at [planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

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The City of Edmonton LRT Operations and Traffic Operations areas have been working together to investigate possible improvements to the intersections on the periphery of Belgravia, primarily along University Avenue at 115 Street and 114 Street. This is in response to the concerns voiced by the Belgravia Community League (BCL) at a City Council rezoning meeting in early 2019, related to redeveloping properties near University Avenue and 115 Street.

The specific issues raised were:

- a) Traffic congestion at 115 Street, especially in the afternoon rush hour
- b) The need for a pedestrian crossing on the west side of the University Avenue - 114 Street intersection

City staff met with members of the BCL board on two occasions, most recently in February, to hear about study findings and possible changes.

The following items were noted by City staff during their observations of the intersections:

- 114 Street operates at capacity during the morning and afternoon peak periods with the afternoon being the most congested. Very small fluctuations in traffic activity can result in substantial increases in traffic delays.
- LRT movements have a significant impact on the traffic delays at University Avenue and 114 Street, particularly in the afternoon peak period. On some occasions, when two opposing trains

cross the intersection in succession, traffic turning to/from University Avenue and 114 Street is stopped for a considerable length of time. Traffic begins to back up and takes even more time to clear. The City is investigating a number of solutions to reduce the occurrence of these lengthy blockages. Further information on this is described in the "LRT Operations" section below.

- The traffic signal at University Avenue and 115 Street is interconnected to 114 Street and as such, there is often a lengthy wait for the signal to turn green for 115 Street. In the afternoon traffic backs up through the intersection and cars often enter or wait in the intersection blocking cars from exiting Belgravia. The City will be making changes at the 115 Street traffic signal to reduce the wait times for 115 Street and create more opportunities for cars to exit the community.
- Finally, the City looked into the feasibility of providing a pedestrian crosswalk on the west side of the University Avenue - 114 Street intersection. This appears feasible, however additional fine-tuning of the traffic signal and LRT timings would be necessary before this can be confirmed.

### LRT Operations:

It is relevant to consider additional background on how the LRT operates. Across the City, the LRT train movements typically take priority over the road traffic when it comes to the signals.

This means that the LRT sends a signal to the traffic lights when the train is on its way, in order to allow time for the traffic lights to change and align with the direction of the train. So if a train is headed South, the traffic signals would prepare, adjust its green light timings, and align the cycles to see a green light for traffic movements in a North/South direction (same as direction as LRT) and red lights for East/West traffic movements (perpendicular to LRT movement).

A special exception has been made at the University Ave intersection with the LRT. This has been made in order to find a better balance between the LRT and road traffic at that critical intersection, and to help ease the traffic congestion in the area. Some of the recent measures that have taken place include:

1. The LRT is now held at Health Sciences station Southbound and at McKernan /Belgravia Northbound when the traffic at University Ave is moving over the tracks (i.e. in the East/West direction, including turning movements). This LRT “hold in station” can last up to a minute and a half depending on the sequence, in order to allow for additional traffic flow and to ease traffic congestion at the expense of LRT schedules. As this hold can impact the overall LRT network frequency and headway control, there is a limit on the duration of this hold. This particular junction is the largest bottleneck across the LRT system, limiting train throughput. In addition, as trains can hold up to 1,000 people, there still needs to remain a balance for the passengers on board the LRT.
2. The crossing warning activation point (the point in time when the bells start to ring, the lights start flashing, and the gates begin to lower) has been adjusted to be more efficient and cause less disruption. This point used to take place in the stations prior to departure, but now will occur just after the train leaves the station, meaning, if there is a hold-up, or problem preventing the train from leaving the station, the crossing warning devices will not impact movements through the

intersection.

3. The preemption timings have been adjusted and optimized. This means there’s a more efficient use of that “heads up” time that the train gives the traffic lights.

In addition to concerns about the University Ave intersections, Belgravia residents continue to voice concerns about the excessive delays exiting the neighbourhood eastbound at 76 Avenue and 114 Street. This long-standing issue results from the combination of heavy traffic along 114 Street, LRT crossings at 76 Avenue, and traffic shortcutting along 76 Avenue. The City knows these congestion and shortcutting problems are a longstanding issue with the Community. The City also knows that there has been extensive consultation on these issues for over two decades and were not being directly investigated with the items above. There has been an extensive amount of consultation on this topic over the past few years -- most recently during the work on the 76 Avenue bike lanes, the Community Traffic Management Plan consultations and the Neighbourhood Renewal Project. The City is currently evaluating the possible installation of traffic sensors for eastbound traffic and changes to the LRT preempt traffic signal sequence.



 **Heather McPherson**  
Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Strathcona

**Contact my office for assistance with:**

- Employment Insurance
- Old Age Pensions
- Income Tax
- Citizenship & Immigration
- Canada Student Loans
- Celebratory Messages

**780-495-8404**  
10045 81 Ave T6E1W7

 **NDP**

heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca  
Follow on   

Visit my website at [www.heathermcpherson.ndp.ca](http://www.heathermcpherson.ndp.ca)



Nature Alberta  
3rd Floor, Percy Page Centre  
11759 Groat Road  
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 3K6

P: (780) 427-8124

## Nature Alberta's Urban Nature Initiative (UNI)

A message from Nature Alberta:

Nature Alberta is a non-profit organization formed in 1970. We engage with and encourage people to increase their knowledge and appreciation of Alberta's natural history, biodiversity and ecological processes.

Habitat loss is the greatest threat to biodiversity in the world. As urban areas grow, natural areas within cities (e.g. backyards and neighbourhood greenspaces) represent a substantial opportunity for conserving biodiversity, reconnecting people with nature and addressing issues (e.g. habitat fragmentation). We firmly believe that nature has a purpose and a place within an urban environment. We see great potential within the City of Edmonton's residential neighbourhoods to support and advance these efforts.

The Urban Nature Initiative is a pilot project that, with funding support from the Edmonton Community Foundation, we are launching in Edmonton this spring. The goal of the UNI project is to elevate biodiversity in urban yards by encouraging homeowners to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs).

With the UNI project we will be taking a proactive approach to connect urban homeowners in Edmonton with nature by working directly with them to understand the important role their yards can play in supporting biodiversity.

A few examples of BMP's include: establishing a pollinator garden; attracting bats; incorporating native plants into landscapes to

enhance wildlife habitat.

There are three parts to this pilot project that include:

- Developing an information booklet for urban audiences in print and online.
- Seeking out and working with 10 homeowner volunteers to implement 10 demonstration sites exemplifying BMPs
- Creating a digital story map of the demonstration sites to encourage homeowners to take action to provide critical habitat to wildlife and support biodiversity within urban areas.

Nature Alberta is looking to find 10 willing homeowners who would be interested in participating in and working closely with us on the demonstration site portion of this project.

We would like to work with a range of yard types and homeowners that have varying experiences and knowledge of nature. Our vision is to work with people who would like to better understand how habitat benefits biodiversity and who are truly enthusiastic to see what we can collectively accomplish with this project.

We are aiming to begin working with homeowners on the demonstration sites in mid-May. We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with community leagues and homeowners in Edmonton to help enhance urban nature and biodiversity.

**If you are interested in this initiative and would like to be contacted when there are updates, please email [Imogen, communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:Imogen.communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca)**

## Meet Your Neighbour: Stephen Wreakes

### Life through the lens of a camera

Stephen Wreakes is a tall man with a gentle manner, a trait that served him well as a medical photographer. Taking images of injury, surgery, healing and even bereavement, Stephen brought sensitivity and integrity to his work, first in Toronto then at the University of Alberta Hospital since 1991.

Stephen and his wife Mary Fearon, a native Edmontonian and well-known French horn player and instructor, raised three daughters in Belgravia and were deeply involved in the community as the kids grew up.

While photography was his day job, for Stephen capturing candid moments at home was pure joy. "A camera is a tool for looking out at the world," he says, and a big part of that world was family.



Retired since 2015, Stephen is still fascinated with photographing people. He's also dabbling more in landscapes, and getting back into the large format photography (4" X 5" view camera) that was part of his student training at Ryerson Polytechnic back in the '70s. He's also a photography history buff and collects daguerrotypes, fragile images on silver plates from the mid-1800s.

Stephen's portfolio is full of photos of Edmonton's Folk Fest, where for years he volunteered on the photography crew, as well as black and white street images captured around the city and on his travels with an old Leica M2. While also adept with digital photography, Stephen still loves the old-school artistry of developing film and printing in his basement darkroom.

Ask Stephen what makes a good photo and he'll tell you it's intangible – even a professional photographer has to take a lot of photos to get "the one". To Stephen, emotional connection is what makes a photo special and that's different for everyone. Becoming more technically proficient can't help but improve your chances though.

**Stephen can help you take better pictures!** He has offered to teach a course at the community hall when BCL programs are back up and running.



Stephen will cover some basic principles of photography, including ISO (sensor sensitivity/film speed), aperture, shutter speed, depth of field and composition. You'll learn how all these are related to give you more control over your camera. This "learn by doing" course will apply to all types of photography and is aimed at novice photographers and anyone who wants to take their camera off the automatic settings. In the last class, you'll be invited to show your work, ask questions about specific interests and share your thoughts and ideas about photography.

Stephen is also hoping to bring in a guest to share digital editing "tips and tricks". While the date and time are yet to be determined, this special class will likely take place on a weekday evening.

If you are interested in the course and would like to be contacted when it is scheduled, please email Cam, [programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca)