



# the belgravian

June 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)  
COVID-19 Response Team: 780-802-3666 or [pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

**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:**

June 19, 2020

**Advertise in the belgravian:**

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

**Banner Photo:** Spring flowers in the Arts Park

*Explore your neighbourhood and enjoy some summer fun with the*  
**TOUR DE BELGRAVIA!**

**Sunday, June 28th, 2020**  
**2:00pm - 3:30pm**

We have planned a fun, safe, and physical-distancing-friendly event to celebrate our amazing community and the arrival of this wonderful warm weather!

You are invited to participate in one of three ways...

- 1. Riding your bicycle, scooter, rollerblades, wheelchair, skateboard, stroller etc. (anything with wheels that is safe on the sidewalk) along the designated route.**

Decorate your preferred mode of transportation in advance and wear a creative costume of your choice - and you could even win a PRIZE!

Take a quick break at the **Photo Pit Stop** (located in the parking lot at Belgravia School) where a pro photographer will take a fun picture of you and your group members! Digital and print copies will be available upon request.

**Register for the event by contacting Jeanette ([mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca)) before Friday, June 26th, 2020.**

*continued on pg. 4...*

2019/2020 BCL Board & Committees Contacts		
President	Cory Dawson	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President		vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Past President	Michael Cohen	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Director at Large	Christina Lau Hoang	director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director at Large	Barry Edgar	director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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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	Ken Goble	facilities@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	Erin Flaherty	erin.flaherty@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)

## Board Update

### New Board Member

Welcome to Ken Goble - BCL Facilities Director:  
“I look forward to working with a great group of energetic volunteers in one of the best communities in Edmonton.  
Thanks for the opportunity!”

### Memberships

In 2019/2020, 427 BCL memberships were sold even though our door-to-door campaign had to end earlier than usual due to covid-19. This is close to our record last year of 450 memberships. Thank you to everyone for supporting the BCL! And a huge thank you to the door to door canvassers. How wonderful it is to live in a community as strong and supportive as Belgravia!

### UofA Community Consultation

On July 1, 2020 the University of Alberta will be welcoming Dr. Bill Flanagan as the 14th president and vice-chancellor of the University of Alberta. This link has the formal announcement: <https://www.ualberta.ca/presidential-search/index.html>

Every 5 years the University of Alberta asks surrounding communities to provide insight on what it's like to be their neighbour. We have submitted a letter addressed to the upcoming president that outlines the benefits and issues we face being in close proximity to the University and South Campus.

If you have anything that you would like passed on or brought up please let me know! Contact Sean at [director4@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:director4@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

### Programs

We are looking at opening up the hall (when it is safe) and are hoping it will be ready for our programs in the fall.

Our fitness and arts programs could be run, though with physical distancing and a rigorous disinfection program! There is the option of

virtual workouts and classes too.

We'll explore options over the summer and be back with feasible programs in August. Keep us in mind. Your advice and help would be invaluable. Please contact Cam at [programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca) if you have any suggestions.

One program – the Belgravia Walking Club – is still operating. Walks are on Wednesdays at 10am starting near the hall. The walks conform with physical distancing requirements. Here is a picture from a recent walk to the UofA Orchard.



### Board Positions Available

Interested in joining the BCL board? It's a great opportunity to help build our community! Available positions include:

- Vice President
- Programs
- Planning & Place

To find out more please contact Cory at [president@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:president@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

### **BCL COVID-19 Neighborhood Response Team**

Our COVID-19 Response Team has been active since mid-March. We have about 30 volunteers who would be pleased to safely help anyone in Belgravia who has a need for grocery or prescription delivery, dog walking, or other neighbourly assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact our group if we can be of assistance to you or someone you know.

**To reach the BCL COVID-19 Neighbourhood Response Team:**

**780-802-3666 (9 am-4 pm)**  
**[pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca)**



*Tour de Belgravia continued from first page...*

**2. Sharing encouraging and inspiring messages and images with sidewalk chalk art along the designated route - please do this BEFORE the day of the event.** You can also create and post supportive signs on your own property if you live along the event route.

**3. Finding a safe and physically-distanced location anywhere along the route to spectate and cheer participants during the event!**

If you wish to be a part of the judging panel for awarding prizes, you can cast your votes for each award category via email ([director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca)) or by paper ballot in a labelled box located at the BCL hall. You will also be eligible to win a special draw prize, as thanks for helping us with your vote!

Everyone who is participating in the event is asked to adhere to AHS guidelines:

<https://www.alberta.ca/guidance-on-outdoor-activities.aspx>

You are encouraged to **wear a mask and stay physically distant.**

There is **no official start or end point to the event route, and participants can choose to enter and exit at the location and time of their choice.**

There is **no specified location for spectators, and they can choose to observe at the time and place of their choice.**

**See you outside and active at the TOUR DE BELGRAVIA!**

## ROUTE MAP

### LOOP 1

- starting at 116 street and 74 avenue
- R on 115 street
- R on 73 avenue
- R on 118 street, passing Vietnamese Alliance Church
- R on 74 avenue (**optional** photo pit stop at Belgravia School parking lot)
- L on 116 street to 76 avenue

(intersection with crossing guards) \*

### LOOP 2

- Continue straight (north) on 116 street, passing St. Paul's United Church
- R on 78 avenue
- L on 115 street, passing Charles Simmonds Park
- L on 80 avenue
- L on 119 street
- L on 76 avenue to 116 street (intersection with crossing guards)\*



\*Volunteer crossing guards (wearing high visibility vest and hats, and carrying stop signs) will be posted at 116 street and 76 avenue in order to help direct event traffic and to slow vehicle traffic.

You can enter and exit the route at any location, and at the time of your choice during the duration of the event. You and your group members can complete one or both loops, and as much or as little of the route as you wish.

### Prize categories will include:

- most colourful costumes
- wildest and wackiest outfits
- biggest participating group (household or cohort family group)
- most creative DIY decorations on wheels



## Activity Suggestions

### Music & Arts

**Edmonton Opera** at home – enjoy clips from their archives and new performances from the kitchen! <https://www.edmontonopera.com/opera-at-home>

Watch #CanadaPerforms concerts from the **National Arts Center** via their social media channels: <https://www.facebook.com/CanadasNAC.CNADuCanada>

RAM from home - **Royal Alberta Museum** brings you live streams of critters, 3D collections, stories and activities: <https://royalalbertamuseum.ca/RAM-from-Home>

RTMP from home - **Royal Tyrell Museum** is posting activities (dinosaur colouring pages) and behind-the-scene videos: [https://tyrellmuseum.com/whats\\_on/rtmp\\_from\\_home](https://tyrellmuseum.com/whats_on/rtmp_from_home)

Learn about Edmonton's history with the **City of Edmonton Archives'** virtual exhibits: [https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/edmonton\\_archives/virtual-exhibits.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton_archives/virtual-exhibits.aspx)

### Kids

**#DiscoverEAtHome** from UofA Faculty of Engineering - collection of engineering and science demo videos, home activities, stories to share, and educational projects that you can do from home: <https://www.ualberta.ca/engineering/community/discovere/discovere-at-home>

**D.I.Y. Opera** from Edmonton Opera – activities designed for elementary students: <https://www.edmontonopera.com/opera-at-home>

### Exercise

Lots of activities for kids, adults and seniors from **Edmonton Sport Council**:  
[https://www.edmontonsport.com/live\\_active/active\\_at\\_home](https://www.edmontonsport.com/live_active/active_at_home)  
[https://www.edmontonsport.com/live\\_active/active\\_at\\_home/active\\_adults\\_seniors\\_at\\_home](https://www.edmontonsport.com/live_active/active_at_home/active_adults_seniors_at_home)

**Westend Seniors Activity Center** have created an 8 week video fitness series to do at home: <https://www.weseniors.ca/resources/8-week-fitness-program-for-seniors/>

### Animals & Nature

Check in with how the animals are doing at **Edmonton Valley Zoo**:  
<https://www.facebook.com/edmontonvalleyzoo/>

Learn more about Canada's birds with videos, activities and more from **Birds Canada**:  
<https://www.birdscanada.org/the-roost/>

Explore Canada's landscapes by taking a virtual hike at **Nature Conservancy Canada** properties, read tips on conservation and listen to nature stories on their podcast:  
<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-you-can-do/bring-nature-home/>

### & More!

A toolkit for daily life during covid-19 from the **City of Edmonton**  
[https://www.edmonton.ca/programs\\_services/emergency\\_preparedness/a-toolkit-for-daily-life-during-covid-19.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/emergency_preparedness/a-toolkit-for-daily-life-during-covid-19.aspx)

## Arts Park Update

### Bee Hotels:

Our bee hotels were occupied and we can see where they have exited the hotel. We will be monitoring to see what size of cavity is used the most and make adjustments to the bee hotels.

### Native Plant Bed:

We are able to continue with our maintaining of the Native Plant Bed and the Fruit Tree Bed. physical distancing, of course, and asking people to bring their own tools.

You are welcome to join us!

We meet every second Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm

Here is our schedule for the summer:

**May 26, June 19, June 23, July 7, July 21, August 4, August 18, September 1**

## Share Garden Space with Neighbours

Do you have unutilized space in your garden that you would like to see filled with vegetables? Are you looking for space to grow vegetables this season? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, please contact us! BCL is coordinating a new project, connecting those with free garden space with those interested in gardening!

Please email Made in Belgravia Coordinator, Jeanette Boman ([mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca))

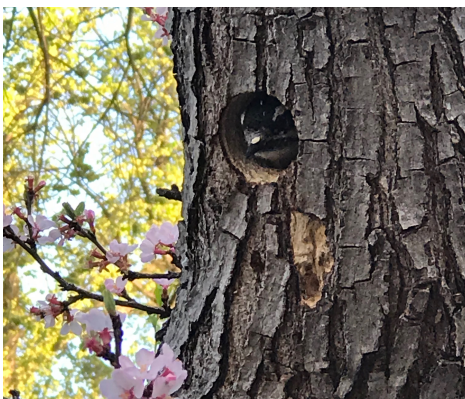


Photo of a Downy woodpecker nest taken in the Ridley/Kerr yard. Some new Belgravians should be hatching soon!

## BCL Knitters Update

The BCL Knitters have been keeping busy during the covid-19 pandemic... some have been yarn bombing rocks to brighten the neighbourhood...



...others in the group have used the time to complete unfinished projects, such as this beautiful sweater, made by one of our most experienced knitters, from unspun Icelandic yarn as a gift for a friend...

...and others have temporarily set aside their knitting needles to sew masks, scrub bags and headbands for family, friends and frontline workers.

Are you interested in learning how to knit? Edmonton Public Library has a new online resource, CreativeBug, with tutorials, patterns & videos! For more info:

<https://www.epl.ca/blogs/post/not-your-grandmas-knitting-learn-to-knit-online/>

### 2020 Neighbours of Infill Survey

**RIWG is a community advocacy group.** We are surveying neighbours of infill construction and residents of mature neighbourhoods to learn from their experiences. Data and feedback collected will be shared with the City, along with RIWG's recommendations to reduce the potential risk of infill-related damage to both neighbours of infill and communities in which infill is being built. We hope to improve the infill experience for everyone!

<https://www.facebook.com/RIWG.YEG/>  
[riwg.edmonton@gmail.com](mailto:riwg.edmonton@gmail.com)

**Thank you for participating in this survey!**

## Spring Developments In Your Local Trees

This is the most exciting time of the year. The flowers are bursting out, beautiful new leaves grace the trees, and birds are building nests.

May 21-22 this year brought strong winds, cold, and abundant rain. But I could almost hear the trees clapping their hands (well...branches) at all this luscious moisture. Just think – if this happened more often then maybe we too could have those huge cedars, hemlocks, and maples found on the west coast! Though the -35°C spells in winter might not suit them....

The native Alberta trees we do have: including aspen, balsam poplar, white birch, white spruce are well adapted to Edmonton's dry climate. They really need our summer 'monsoon' rainy season to do well here. Soon the aspen female trees will shed fluffy white seeds from capsules on their dangly catkins.



Manitoba maple keys (seeds)

The non-native trees here in the city, such as Manitoba maple, Colorado blue spruce, Mayday trees (from Siberia), American and Siberian elm, etc. do well here. Did you know the most similar climate to Edmonton is the central plain of Siberia? No wonder those trees are happy here. But the recent dry years (most of the last 22 years starting with the big El Nino of 1998) have been hard on native birch, balsam poplar and white spruce.



Red male cones before pollen shed - photo taken May 18, Windsor park school



Female aspen catkins - photo taken May 17

On May 21, along Saskatchewan drive near the university of Alberta, the trees were well leafed. The saskatoons (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), and pin cherries (*Prunus pensylvanica*) were both around 50 to 70% of flower buds open. The pin cherries started a bit earlier, but then the saskatoon bushes leapt quickly into bloom. Very soon the common purple lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) and chokecherries (*Prunus virginiana*) will also flower. If observing and reporting bloom times sounds like fun, do check out my PlantWatch page (<http://plantwatch.naturealberta.ca/>) for information on over 20 wild plants, plus a few non native plants (dandelions and lilac). There are exciting stories here. Did you know that saskatoon was the most important plant food for the Blackfoot first nation? And that bunchberry is the fastest plant on earth? The federal PlantWatch program has info on more plants from across Canada as well: <https://www.naturewatch.ca/plantwatch/>.



Saskatoon flowers - photo taken May 17

If you want to report saskatoon bloom using your phone, (hurry because flowers will be spent soon!) you can report to the ABMI naturelynx mission: <https://naturelynx.ca/Missions/36/details>. Send a photo! Last year first bloom of saskatoon along Saskatchewan drive was on May 16 in warm areas like Saskatchewan drive (between 116 and 118 streets). It was May 17<sup>th</sup> this year.

Have fun watching flowers!

Elisabeth Beaubien, Alberta PlantWatch coordinator (and Windsor Park Neighbour)



## **Congratulations Graduates**

Given the fact that formal graduation ceremonies are cancelled this year due to COVID, I encourage all friends and neighbours in the community to celebrate alongside you (at an appropriate distance) and help mark this important milestone.

### **To the graduating class, Congratulations**

Do not allow twelve weeks of uncertainty this year to distract from the twelve years of accomplishment! The education you have received from Edmonton Public Schools has helped prepare you for whatever steps you take or adversity you might face. Your work ethic, character, leadership, perseverance, friendships— all of these are in no way devalued and cannot be taken from you. You made it!

### **To your families: Thank you.**

Public education is truly a partnership and I hope that you are able to celebrate this special milestone together in the traditions of your family. As a parent myself, I believe the saying “the days are long but the years are short” could not be more true. All of those lunches and snacks (*packed*), jackets and boots (*zipped*), homework and headaches (*check!*) over the years have culminated in this great achievement. You also made it!

### **To the graduates: A request**

Along the way when times were tough, I’m guessing a special adult — maybe a teacher, coach, custodian, or mentor in your school helped you, believed in you, sparked a passion in you for a certain subject or gave you that extra push to persevere and pursue excellence. My humble request of you is to find that person and thank them for making a difference in your life and let them know what you want to do next. It will mean the world to them. You may not know it, but they take just as much pride in celebrating your accomplishment as you do and it will re-energize them to keep making a difference in the lives of the next generation. They are proud of you too, and rightly so.

Please celebrate safely and have a wonderful, happy, healthy, physically-distanced-but-socially-connected summer.

Sincerely,  
Michael Janz  
Trustee, Edmonton Public  
School Board



Hello Belgravians!

Many of you have had your children in Mrs. Bell's Kindergarten class, and have fond memories of that special first year of school with a teacher that each of the children have loved. There have been many over the past 22 years!



Mrs. Bell is retiring! Here at Belgravia School, it goes without saying that Mrs. Bell is going to be missed deeply. Her commitment and contribution to the education of our students has been stellar.

We are planning something to acknowledge Mrs. Bell's time at Belgravia School, and we need your help. An email was sent to as many former parents as possible, but several email contacts are no longer valid and we don't want to miss your contribution. Please help us by spreading the word to all your former Belgravia cohorts.

Please contact Jan McClelland or Mike Steele to find out what we are asking for. With Mrs. Bell in the neighbourhood and a belgravian reader, we don't want to give away the surprise! Please contact us by either of the methods listed below, we are hoping to have all contributions in by mid-June. Thank you in advance!

Phone: 780-435-5560 Email:

jan.mcclelland@epsb.ca or belgravia@epsb.ca



**#GrowOlderWithMe**  
**THIS SENIORS' WEEK**

June 1 - 7



Each passing year offers a new stage of learning and development and is cause for celebration! Share your story at [growolderwithme.net](http://growolderwithme.net) and help us ring in #SeniorsWeek 2020. #GrowOlderWithMe #LetsStopAgeism

Belgravia School Council  
(BSC)/Belgravia Parent  
Council Society(BPCS)



Do you have bottles and cans that have built up over the last several months in anticipation of the Belgravia School Bottle Drive? Unfortunately we had to cancel our spring bottle drive given the current pandemic. However, we have found a way that you can still get rid of those unwanted bottles and cans and still help out the BSC/BPCS, all without leaving your home! The BSC/BPCS has partnered with SkipTheDepot to establish an "on demand" bottle drive that meets your own schedule. Simply download the SkipTheDepot app from the App Store or Google Play, set up an account, choose **Belgravia Parent Council Society** as your charity of choice, and schedule your pick-up! If you are not into apps, you can still donate through the web using the BSC/BPCS specific link at - <https://app.skipthedepot.com/belgraviasc>. If you sign up through the web link your donations will be automatically credited to BSC/BPCS. It's a win-win-win situation. You can clear up space in your garage, ensure materials are being recycled and help out the Belgravia Parent Council Society support the mission of our community school.

To all of our Green and Gold  
Garden supporters and  
friends.



Finally, the snow has melted, warmer weather has arrived and the volunteer gardeners of the Green and Gold Community Garden are anxious to get into the garden for our 12th season!

However, with the COVID 19 pandemic, our 12th season will bear little resemblance to our usual operations that we, and you, have become accustomed to! But be assured, that we will have a garden season - though it will be adapted to adhere to our current realities and safety concerns.

We look forward to seeing you, as we embark on this modified season. We will continue to review and discuss directives and information and keep you updated as to how, and when, the garden will be operating this summer.  
[www.greengoldgarden.com](http://www.greengoldgarden.com)

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## Heather McPherson

Member of Parliament  
Edmonton Strathcona

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to help you through the  
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for assistance with:**

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- Income Tax
- Citizenship & Immigration
- Canada Summer Jobs

**780-495-8404**



[heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca)

Follow on

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





## Meet Your Neighbour: Anna Mioduchowska



Anna Mioduchowska and her husband Andrew moved from their Lendrum home to the Strafford in Belgravia condos close to 11 years ago; a move she hasn't regretted for one moment. For Andrew it meant being closer to the U of A where he worked as a professor in Mechanical Engineering. But for Anna, a writer and a poet, the sense of community within the Strafford is what she appreciates most. With only 36 units, it's just the right size to get to know and care about each other. And, as Anna observes "there is never a shortage of Board volunteers!"

Anna was 13 when she came to Edmonton in 1961 from Poland; a challenging age for anyone learning a new language, adjusting to a different culture and making new friends. A Bachelors of English, an After Degree in Education and work towards a Master's in Comparative Literature at the U of A laid the foundation for Anna's writing career.

Her poetry, poetry translations, stories, essays and book reviews have appeared in several anthologies and literary journals over the years. She has taught prose and poetry classes too. In fact, it was through a Minerva Foundation sponsored class she was teaching that she learned about the Strafford in Belgravia. At that time, a reference to Anna's work in an Edmonton Arts Council Annual Report claimed that Edmonton had "grown deep roots into her psyche, and its varied landscapes along with their assorted inhabitants often find their way into her work."

Not only did Anna's move to the Strafford in Belgravia result in a strong a sense of community, it brought her closer to the river valley where she walks on a daily basis. Perhaps the Great Horned owlets she recently spotted on such walks will find their way into her future poetry ... the Whitemud Creek Ravine already has:

### In Passing

If our river valley is a gothic cathedral  
and I am a pair of ears  
listening to its voice  
deliver the seasonal homily –

Whitemud Creek Ravine  
is the Sistine Chapel.  
I grow vocal cords and lips.

And this is the best part. While Anna conducted a Made in Belgravia poetry session this past May during the covid-19 lockdown, she is willing to offer a course over a series of 5 or 6 weeks for those of us who are interested in developing our internal poet. Stay tuned as our BCL programs take shape this coming fall.