



the belgravian

March 2021

Belgravia Community League

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Edmonton, AB T6G2T5

Contact us:

Email: 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

Hall host hours:

Cancelled

Visit us online:

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

Next Submission Deadline:

March 17, 2021

Advertise in *the belgravian*:

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Banner Photo: Leaning tree in Arts Park,
by G. Beck

Issue Highlights:

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Belgravia Community League ***Memberships***

If you are new to the neighbourhood, memberships are complimentary for the first year. Need to renew? Please contact membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca. Memberships can also be purchased online:

<https://belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/>

2021 BCL Board & Committee Contacts

President	Cory Dawson	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Belgravia Playschool Chair	Miranda Dawson	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Playschool Teacher	Monika Fouad	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Rink manager	Simon Gosgnach	rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Arts park team leader	Kathy Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Community Connections		
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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

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For more information, please contact David Cass
d.cass@ualberta.ca



BCL Board Updates

Facilities Update

BCL Facilities include the hall, the Arts Park and the ice rink. While the Playschool is running Tuesday through Friday mornings, the hall is currently closed for other activities. The Arts Park is quiet but you can walk through and have a look at the “bee hotels” there. Solitary female bees lay eggs in tubes we created in the wood and then seal them up with pollen and mud. The eggs hatch as larvae and eat their way out. They’re easy to build and make great habitat for our busy friends! Go online to find out how you can easily make one. The ARTS Park is also a good place to go on a clear night to see the stars.



We need to thank Simon, Ethan and Alex for their hard work in getting the ice rink in early this year and keeping it in good shape. Many hours go into making, clearing and flooding throughout the skating season. To keep everyone safe we’ve been following the Alberta Health guidelines for outdoor rinks. Please observe the guidelines, which as of Feb 21st include:

- No competitions, games or events can occur
- No shinny, tag or pick-up games
- You can have sticks and pucks but must be from the same household
- Non household members must stay at least 2-3 meters apart
- Maximum number of skaters posted
- Hand sanitizer is provided but you are also encouraged to bring your own
- Lights are out at 8:30 each night
- The washroom is closed for now
- Skaters must be BCL members and have a valid skate tag; see the BCL website for tags
- Be responsible and respectful

For more information, visit the Alberta Health website and see the COVID-19 guidance for outdoor winter recreation page.

Enjoy winter, it won’t last much longer!

Ken Goble – BCL Facilities Director

Belgravia Planning

I’d like to extend a huge thank-you to the community for responses back to the many planning items featured in the previous newsletter and community e-blasts!

Recently, the Belgravia Community Planning Committee (BCPC) asked for feedback on the proposed Metro 78 project, and community responses were amazing! We received approximately 150 responses (and counting) to help us get a sense of where the community is at and advocate on during future meetings with the developer. A summary is included in this newsletter so residents can be aware of general sentiments expressed by the community.

Additionally, a call for volunteers was sent out to look for more volunteers on the BCPC, and responses back have been amazing! Many eager candidates reached out and will be helping out soon on a range of activities – from proposal and policy reviews, to generating info and communications, to developing activities, events, and placemaking proposals for resident to enjoy in the coming months to years! We’ve also received interest from many students enrolled in the University of Alberta’s Urban Planning program, and are thrilled to have them on board to help see these goals through to fruition! A very special thank-you to all that have put your names forward!

Regarding Charles Simmonds Park, a resident committee has been hard at work on the back-end building a case for upgrading the space there, and are interested in learning what residents want to see included. Further information is included in this edition.

Jerreck Connors
Director – Planning & Place
planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca



New BCL Strategic Planning Process

Accomplishing great things doesn't just happen – you have to plan! The BCL's last strategic plan was completed in 2011, and the accomplishments over the past ten years indicate that the planning process was highly successful. Major goals outlined (and achieved!) in the last strategic plan include renovating the community hall, expanding the number of communication channels with the community, and promoting greater connection among residents through an expanded annual sequence of social activities and other means.

In February, the Board will begin a new strategic planning process that is expected to be completed by June. Through a series of four facilitated half-day meetings, the Board will take stock of the threats and opportunities facing Belgravia and the BCL and develop a plan to meet these challenges. The Board participants are a diverse cross-section of our community and as we go along we'll keep consulting with community members. The Board looks forward to sharing the outcomes of the planning process with our community later this year.

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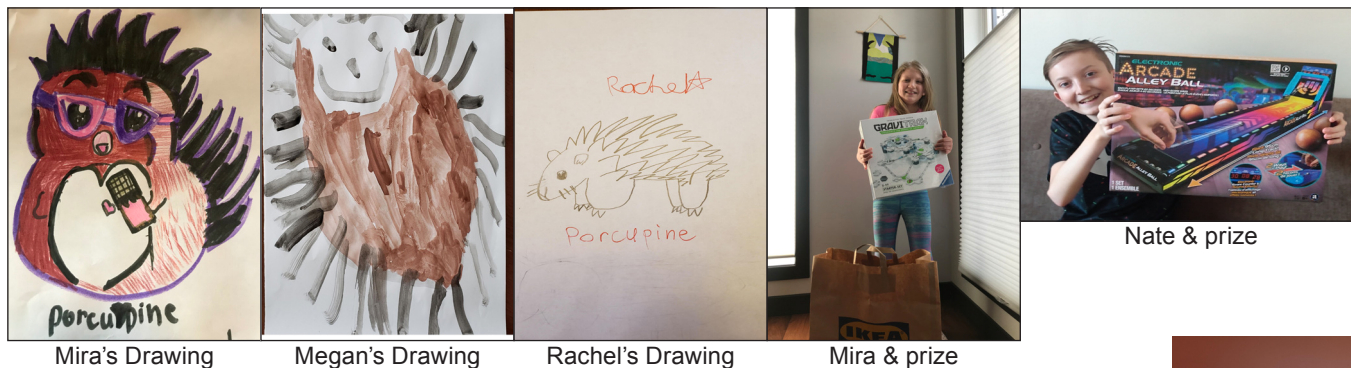
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Belgravia's secret winners!

The scavenger hunt Belgravia's secret has ended and we got some very cute pictures of the solution: Porcupine. To submit a drawing or painting was an optional twist, but aren't they adorable?!



Did you know that sometimes at night, these spiky rodents leave the river valley and waddle into our neighbourhood? They are the world's third largest living rodent, after capybaras and beavers. They like to eat leaves, twigs, green plants and bark.

And the winners are: Mira, Megan & Rachel, and Nate. Congrats!

Prizes possible thanks to Community Initiatives Funding from the City of Edmonton

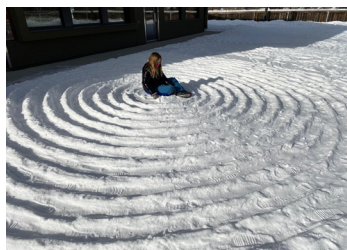


Belgravia School Virtual Open House

Thursday, March 11, 2021
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Interested parents can pre-register for this event by completing the Open House Registration Form on our school website: belgravia.epsb.ca. If you have any questions about this event, please contact the school at 780-435-5560.

Belgravia School offers a regular K-6 academic program with French as a second language for grades 4 to 6. Belgravia's strong emphasis on outstanding student achievement and development of the whole child reflects the values and expectations of the academic/professional community in which it is located. Students are challenged and enriched through a strong academic focus, as well as a significant array of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. All classrooms are inclusive teaching and learning areas.



Historical Photo Contest

You are invited (and encouraged) to share old photos of Belgravia!

Do you have a picture of the old WCB hospital; the old SW Cultural Centre (where the Arts Park is); or of the original playground; or the school when it had portable classrooms; or the original stores where Belgravia Hub and Mood are now, which included Purpur's Groceteria, Community Drugs, Walter's Barbershop, and in the earliest days a butcher?

A photo of the old Toonerville Trolley would be amazing.

Prizes available!

Please submit to:
newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca



Heather McPherson
Member of Parliament
Edmonton Strathcona

Contact my office for assistance with:

- Employment Insurance
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- Canada Student Loans
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heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca
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Visit my website at www.heathermcpherson.ndp.ca

Belgravia Playschool Update



After eating lots of apples and baking real apple-buns, we made 'apple-pie' with leftovers.

Living the story (Robert Munch) with playdough and collected nature items.

Making 'stone soup' for our family picnic.

Socially distanced soup picnic.



Fun with a big pile of leaves!



We made teddy stuffies and caves then learned about hibernation.



We decorated cookie plates and made salt dough for xmas decorations.

After a ghost poem, hunt and games we gutted our ghosts to do some pinecone math.



Meet Your Neighbour Block Connector Spotlight: Cory Dawson

1. When did you/ your family come to Belgravia?
Originally moved to Belgravia around Easter of 2014, during exams of first year of law school when Miranda was five months pregnant with our first born (our daughter Hadley). We first lived on 119 St and then moved to 74 Ave, just across the street from the school.
2. Who is included in your family?
Myself, Miranda, Hadley (daughter) in 1st grade at Belgravia school, and our Eli (son) who is a veteran of Playschool at the Community League Hall. You've likely seen our son playing hockey on the sidewalk or shooting hoops in the school yard.
3. What do you like most about Belgravia?
The location, but most importantly the people. We have made such a great group of friends - The Belgravia Dads and the Moms of Belgravia. Lots of other kids our children's age. The community is unbelievable. Oh - and the rink. Our son would skate three-a-days if we could manage it.
4. What are your hobbies/interests?
Reading with my daughter and playing sports with my son. And watching sports - all kinds - with the whole family. We're huge Oilers fans, as well as Toronto Raptors and Toronto Blue Jays.
5. What do you find most rewarding about your role on the BCL board?
Getting to know a wider range of people in the neighbourhood and learning about their interests, concerns, and passions. It keeps me connected with a much broader range of the neighbourhood demographics.
6. How are you coping with COVID restrictions?
We're managing. It's forced us to become a more outdoor-winter family (not our strong suit in previous winters) and the plus side is that we have seen more people out and about this winter than we have in all of our previous winters in Belgravia.
7. What one thing would you like to tell us about you?
I'm originally from Toronto - came to Edmonton via London (Ontario), Ottawa, and Calgary. Huge sports fan (as mentioned above). I love road trips - I've driven through and seen at least half of the U.S.
8. What one thing makes your whole day great?
My family.
9. What's your motto?
Lead by example.



*Dawson family photos by
Kelsy Neilson photographer
knphoto.ca*

Neighbouring in the winter - from caroling to social snacking

Winter is usually a slower time for neighbouring as we spend less time outside. There are however some fine examples of intentional neighbouring that I have come across on my own block and others. One December day close to the Holidays, a neighbour on our block delivered a flyer. It read “Let’s sing carols from our own front porches at 3 pm today”. Below that, a few carols were printed. Unfortunately, I was away, so I missed it, but ear witnesses say that our block was ringing with singing (and I imagine some laughter) that afternoon. What a great way to brighten up a midwinter day, when pandemic restrictions prevented even small outdoor gatherings.

Another example that has led to some, perhaps less intentional, neighbouring, are the private front yard ice rinks that have been put in place in a couple of places in Belgravia. Besides providing ultra-easy access to fun for those living nearby, animated spaces like these create opportunities for “social snacking”: brief and informal positive interactions in daily events. These seemingly insignificant interactions can help people feel more connected, happy and fight the social isolation that we are all at risk for due to both winter and COVID-19 restrictions. In the long run, they also build trust and a foundation for a resilient and supportive community. Best thing is, opportunities for social snacking (while maintaining physical distance) are everywhere outside of your house. Let’s not underestimate the power of waving to a kid, smiling at a senior, or saying hi to a mom pushing a stroller.

But if social snacking gets the appetite up for more social interactions, online gatherings are an option. However, you might need to seek these out actively, or even organize your own session. I have seen people get together on video calls to bake, cook, celebrate New Year’s Eve and play games. Some topics are especially well suited for neighbours. Gardening is the most frequently mentioned interest among Belgravians (based on info collected as part of the Abundant Belgravia initiative). Perhaps a forum on indoor seed starting would be of interest? Let your block connector or us know. We can help set it up using the BCL’s Zoom account!

Your neighbourhood connector and Abundant Belgravia Committee

City of Edmonton Winter Neighbourhood Challenge

Let’s have some fun this winter! Challenge yourself, your friends or your family to participate in a Winter Neighbourhood Challenge! Explore your neighbourhood and stay socially connected while maintaining safe physical distance and adhering to all public health measures.

February 1-14: Notes of Kindness Challenge

Drop an anonymous note of kindness, craft/drawing or small prize on a neighbour’s doorstep with a note that says “pass it on.” If you prefer to stay in, you can leave a thank you note for someone on your door (i.e., postal worker or delivery person, neighbour in your building). Take a photo of the note and submit it with your entry. In addition to submitting your entry, you can also share on social media using the #yegneighbouring hashtag. Stay safe, be creative, and enjoy each winter neighbourhood challenge!

Additional details and online entry form is available at:

https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/neighbourhoods/neighbourhood-programs-resources.aspx

Charles Simmonds Park Upgrade

Charles Simmonds Park (located west of 115 street and north of 78 avenue) is frequently thought to be part of Belgravia. It is actually one of the largest open-green spaces in McKernan, nestled at the edge of what is known as the McKernan Hip, sharing borders with Belgravia. In addition to serving the McKernan community, the park also serves the northern Belgravia community.

Since June of 2020, a group of homeowners surrounding the park have been exploring opportunities to upgrade the space. Recently a committee was formed, in partnership with McKernan Community League and the City of Edmonton, to start planning the project.

As laid out by the City's Neighbourhood Park Development Program, the project will go through five stages:

1. Strategy
2. Concept
3. Design
4. Build
5. Operate

Our committee has been given the go ahead to start work on stage one, which includes developing a plan to engage the community. After completion of the Strategy stage, we will move into the Concept stage, which will include working with a City project manager and landscape architect on a concept plan with more design specifics. Each stage of the process will include community engagement, feedback and input.

A survey is now available online to identify what type of upgrades community members would like to see in Charles Simmonds Park. We hope you and your family will take the time to complete the survey using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DHRWP3B>

Or QR code:



Thank you for taking the time to respond to the survey. If you have any questions please email: charlessimmondspark@gmail.com



Summary of Survey Responses: Metro 78

Written by *Belgravia Community Planning Committee*

Proposal Likes & Dislikes

Asked about general likes or dislikes about the proposal, respondents had positive opinions on the overall appearance and frequently felt density near the LRT was a good use of space. What was disliked was the proposal's height and mass, the lack of provided parking, and that the extra density sought was pushing things too far.

Proposed height (6 storeys)

Responses were overwhelmingly against 6 storeys, but divided on if 4 storeys as outlined in the ARP was appropriate, or should be lower. Concerns generally centered on the precedent-setting nature of 6 storeys, the contrast and potential impacts to surrounding developments, and as a way to reduce unit numbers to minimize impacts on traffic and parking congestion.

Inclusion of Commercial Space

Respondents were slightly more favorable to having commercial space in the buildings. Those in support were looking for services like day-care, pharmacies, and doctor offices, or small-scale commercial options such as grocers, convenience stores, cafes, and bakeries. Those opposed felt area services were already sufficient and concerned on the traffic added commercial might bring. There was no support for bars or late-hour businesses.

Some respondents also outlined that the lack of commercial venues in the community was why they felt vehicle ownership was necessary for living in the area and was directly impacting traffic numbers.

Special Considerations around LRT Station

Respondents wanted to make sure development did not negatively impact access to the LRT station including handicap accessibility, and frequently identified it as a suitable location to promote increased density and transit-oriented development, though stressed limiting how much. The development was seen as blocking noise to the near-by area, and could enhance the safety of the LRT station.

There were concerns the loss of the existing turnaround would be a problem for LRT kiss- and-rides, and that this development may create a 'wall', clashing aesthetically with the neighborhood and dividing the neighbourhood from the LRT.

Belgravia Traffic Congestion

Traffic congestion is widely viewed as a significant problem, particularly entering and exiting the community via 76 Ave during peak hours. Respondents were frequently frustrated with current conditions and wanted to ensure conditions would not get worse, fueling many negative sentiments against the proposal.

No Tenant Parking

There was some support for a 'carless' building for its environmental impacts and appeal to carless citizens. However, the slim majority were skeptical and in opposition to the idea; concerned tenants would have some cars and park in the street or rent spaces from neighbours. There was also a concern that the number of proposed visitor stalls was insufficient and would bleed over onto nearby streets.

Current Parking Restrictions

As a means to better discourage rouge tenants, the option for adjusting parking restrictions was proposed. A slim majority felt that existing parking restrictions should remain while others generally felt restrictions should be more severe. There were also a number of comments that enforcing current restrictions needed to greatly improve.

Amenity Contributions from the Developer

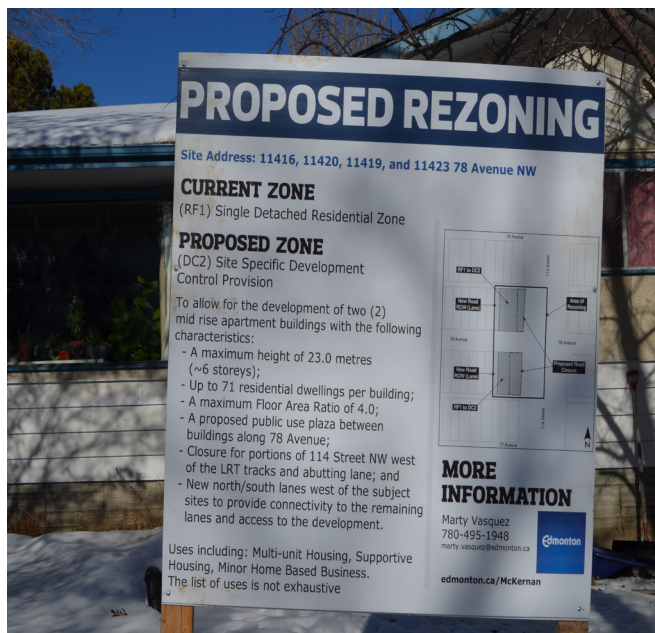
A wide array of suggestions was received, with the most frequent being upgrades to Charles Simmonds Park, improvements to the Belgravia rink, and League facility improvements. The Plaza received some backing, but was not in the forefront of what community members wanted to see.

Plaza Amenities

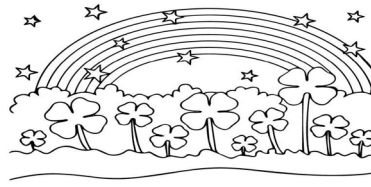
In the event the plaza was a contribution inevitability, respondents were polled on what things they did and did not want to see included. Responses frequently mentioned wanting to see benches/seating, greenery, intentionally designed spaces & furnishings for play, some form of water feature, consideration of history, and for overall good lighting.

Objected items centered on perceived security risks, potential for vandalism, litter, and noise & air pollution. Respondents wanted to feel safe, so proper sightlines and designs separating play from general pedestrians were encouraged.

There was a common theme that respondents weren't sold on the idea this plaza was a community benefit. Concerns were that the plaza was too small, too shady/windy, and would only be useful for residents of the development.



Junior Belgravians! This page is just for you!



Happy Saint Patrick's Day



LUCKY WORD FIND (CIRCLE THE WORDS LISTED BELOW)

L	M	A	R	C	K	W	G	O	L	4
4	L	E	A	F	C	L	O	V	E	R
K	L	4	I	%	I	V	L	L	P	G
4	L	E	N	R	R	O	D	\$	R	O
K	H	\$	B	A	T	G	R	E	E	T
O	C	\$	O	I	A	C	E	I	C	O
R	R	U	W	N	P	N	G	U	H	4
V	A	V	L	4	T	G	O	L	A	F
4	M	O	O	O	S	\$	L	N	U	N
L	O	O	P	W	A	F	F	4	N	\$

Silly Jokes

Q: When did the leprechaun cross the road?

A: When it turned green!

Q: What do you call a leprechaun who goes to jail?

A: A Lepre-con!

Q: Knock-Knock! Who's There? Irish.
Irish who? Irish you a happy Saint Patrick's Day!

4 LEAF CLOVER
LUCK
POT

MARCH
RAINBOW
ST PATRICK

LEPRECHAUN
GREEN
GOLD

YOUR LEPRECHAUN'S TALE (FILL IN THE BLANKS)

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A LEPRECHAUN NAMED WHO LIVED IN THE

..... PART OF BELGRAVIA. WHILE PEOPLE HAD SEEN, NOBODY

HAD EVER CAUGHT HIM. IF YOU CATCH A LEPRECHAUN

..... ONE DAY WHILEING, NOTICED A RAINBOW

IN THE SKY AND THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD DAY TO CATCH A LEPRECHAUN.

..... SET A TRAP CONSISTING OF

THE NEXT DAY NOTICED TINY FOOTPRINTS LEADING TO THE TRAP.

INSIDE THE TRAP WAS WAS VERY HAPPY BECAUSE