

**Belgravia Community League (BCL)** 11540 73 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T6G 0G1

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52202 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 (twitter)
belgraviaedmonton (facebook)
https://www/belgraviaedmonton.ca (website)

#### **Next Submission Deadline:** April 14, 2021

Advertise in the belgravian: adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Banner Photo: Keillor Point 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		
Vice President		Eleanor Olszewski	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Past President		Michael Cohen	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Secretary		Samantha Graham	secretary@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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Website administrator		Tim Janzen	webmaster@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Facebook administrator		Jonathan Chan	facebook@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Newsletter administrator		Lena Jones	newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Belgravian ads manager		Lena Jones	adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
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Programs Director		Debbie Smith	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Made in Belgravia		Jeanette Boman	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Abundant Community Committee		Barry Edgar	director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Pumpkin party, Casino		Reg & Jane Norby	norby@shaw.ca		
Belgravia Playschool Chair		Miranda Dawson	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Belgravia Playschool Teacher		Monika Fouad	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Facilities Director		Ken Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca		
Hall rental coordinator		Jeanette Boman	mib@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)



# WANTED Gardening Space

I live in Belgravia and I'm looking for a sunny garden or unlandscaped area to grow veggies.

Contact Cameron at 780.710.7171 or cjsgarden2021@gmail.com

## **BCL Board Updates**

#### Communications

Since November, we have had the privilege of serving as BCL Communications Directors and have enjoyed meeting many people dedicated to making Belgravia a great place to live.

BCL has a number of communications vehicles in place to share information with the community such as the newsletter and a Facebook page. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team that supports us and would like to acknowledge all their contributions. Lena Jones does double duty as our newsletter administrator and ads administrator. Jonathan Chan is the Facebook administrator. Tim Janzen serves as the BCL website administrator. And finally, Susanne Rowe and her team deliver the Belgravian. Thank-you all!

The newsletter and other Belgravia

communications are only memorable and useful if we have great content. Do you have an interesting story to tell about the community? Would you like to write a gardening column this summer? Are you a younger person who might want to contribute a joke or create a puzzle for the Junior Belgravian page in this newsletter? Please send us your community related ideas and submissions.

Within the next several months, we hope to complete a refresh of the BCL website and are seeking the support of community members to accomplish this. If you would like to participate, have design skills or an interest in helping organize/develop content, we would love to hear from you.

Sharlene Stayberg & Mark Maxfield Directors - Communications communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca

#### **BCL Help Wanted**

Have a look on page 2 of any issue of *The Belgravian* and you will see a long list of positions in the community league, and the volunteers who fill them. It takes a lot of hands (and brains) to keep our league running! And we are currently in need of a few more.

The community league is a great opportunity to pitch in for your own family and neighbours, work and become friends with a great group of fellow volunteers, and apply the skills you enjoy practicing or learn new skills.

The following BCL board positions will become available at the 2021 annual general meeting, to be held in June or September:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Membership

(Terms are for two years.)

Interested in spearheading a new initiative? The BCL welcomes your contribution.

Please contact Cory Dawson (president@belgraviaedmonton.ca) if you would like more information.

#### BCL Spring Community Clean Up -May 2021

Let's keep Belgravia GREEN! Clean up your home, your block and alleyways, and our beautiful boulevards and parks!

Stay tuned for more information in the next edition of the Belgravian newsletter, as well as via e-blast, website and Facebook announcements.

Please contact Christina

(director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca) if you are interested in helping with planning or volunteering for this event. Thank you!

# 2nd Annual Belgravia Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday April 4th, 2021

Last year's physically distanced Easter Egg Hunt was an eggcellent affair! Let's make this year's hunt even better. Remember, the Easter Bunny has been designated as an essential service.

To make this work, we need both Easter Bunny Team Members (to place an Egg in their front yard) and Easter Egg Hunters (to go and search for the Eggs!)

# The plan for the Easter Bunny Team (Belgravia residents only):

- 1. By 1 pm on Sunday, April 4th place an Easter Egg somewhere in your front yard that is clearly visible from the sidewalk.
- 2. Your Easter Egg can be made and coloured from just about anything ... paper, fabric, wool, wood, metal ... as long as it looks like an Easter Egg.



#### The plan for the Easter Egg Hunters (Belgravia residents only):

- 1. After 1 pm (and until 6 pm) on April 4th, children along with their household members begin looking for the eggs all around the neighbourhood.
- 2. Keep track of each address where you see a front yard Easter Egg (please leave the Eggs in place for others to find).
- 3. Send the list of addresses where you find an Egg to mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca
- 4. To be entered into the prize draw, include at least 10 addresses. Each family can submit one entree. Please include your name and address (to facilitate delivery of prizes).
- 5. The BCL will be purchasing gift certificates for treats from the Mood Cafe.

Please remember to practice **physical distancing from non-household members!** It is really important to continue to protect the health of our community!

Happy Easter Egg Hunting!

# **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; the school when it had portable classrooms; 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? We would love a photo of the old Toonerville Trolley. Prizes available! Many thanks to everyone that has participated so far!

Please submit to: newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

# **Playschool Update**

**Belgravia Co-operative Playschool** is now accepting registrations for September 2021!

Make sure to reserve your spot soon, as they'll fill up quickly. We will be continuing with our one class of 9 children format, unless provincial COVID restrictions change. Playschool will run Tuesday/ Wednesday/Thursday from 8:30-11:30am, though Miss Monika remains flexible to additional days and a lunch program.

We are accepting both 3- and 4-year-olds into our class. Private tours of the playschool may be booked on Saturdays for parents interested in seeing the space. Please reach out to playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca for more information.

#### St. Patrick's Day Fun at Playschool!

The children had so much fun with their St. Patrick's Day celebration, and on the days leading up to it. They made traps, and set them out ahead of time to try and catch Leprechauns.

When they came to school on St. Patrick's Day, the Leprechauns had made such a mess! The children searched for their hidden indoor shoes, crawled through the maze the Leprechauns made, and ended up catching two Leprechauns at the end of the day. My son Eli was overheard saying "this is the best day of my life".





Making Leprechaun traps



Getting caught in a trap

Two caught Leprechauns!

# Belgravia School Update

Belgravia School students were delighted to be able to celebrate with long-time Belgravia resident Len Allbon on his 100th birthday this past February. To celebrate, Belgravia students delivered 100 paper hearts, wrote 100 letters, shared 100 years of history and hosted a virtual assembly with Mr. Allbon. When asked what he has learned over the past 100 years, Mr. Allbon spoke of the importance of being kind, being helpful, and cherishing your family. Grade 5 student Gustavo commented "He (Mr. Allbon) was happy, excited and thrilled. My friends and I were happy for him." On behalf of our entire school community, we would like to thank Hilary Allbon, Len's daughter, for including us in her father's special day.



# Belmac Outdoor Soccer 2021

Registration is scheduled to run until April 15th. Registrations submitted after this date would be 'late submissions' and subject to a late fee. AHS is scheduled to make an announcement on April 12 regarding



the soccer season, which will be the catalyst for Edmonton Minor Soccer Associate (EMSA) to decide what the season will look like. Belmac Soccer has a Facebook page; the link can be accessed through the Belgravia Community League Facebook page and website.

Questions can be directed to the Belmac Soccer Coordinator (belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca)





# Heather McPherson Member of Parliament Edmonton Strathcona

# Contact my office for assistance with:

- Employment Insurance
- Old Age Pensions
- Canada Revenue Agency
- 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

# Meet Our Centenarian Neighbour: Leonard Allbon

Len was born on February 28, 1921 in Sydenham, England. As a youngster, he loved going to school, helping his mom and dad run their British Candy Shop (can you imagine having parents who owned a candy business?) and visiting his cousins in Southend-on-Sea.

Len joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) when he was 18. He attended the Royal Air Force College before being appointed to the Air/Sea Rescue Department first as a Private moving on to the rank of Captain. As a communications expert (which he learned in the London bunkers alongside Sir Winston Churchill), a key task for him was to identify and locate enemy forces that were a threat to England. His WWII experience took him to Italy as well. As part of the Air Forces' mobile operations to "Save the Children" his battalion rescued orphaned and injured children throughout Italy. Leonard's recorded story of these experiences can be found in The Memory Project (https://www.thememoryproject.com)

Len was 25 years old when he was released from the RAF. With the RAF offering veterans re-education opportunities,



Len's work with the injured children in Italy piqued his interest in occupational therapy. He attended the London School of Occupational Therapy and graduated in 1950. While pursuing a career in helping the injured regain functional abilities in their everyday and working lives, he met a nurse named Margaret at Bootham Park Hospital in York. They married in 1957.

In 1959, Len applied for and was hired by the U of A School of Physical Therapy to develop the occupational therapy program. Len and Margaret arrived by plane in January 1960 with their 2-year-old daughter, Clare. Their Austin Mini packed with all their belongings had been shipped and then put on a train to Edmonton. By the time Hilary was born in 1962 and Jack in 1967 no doubt the family had outgrown their Austin Mini.

After a lot of hard work at the U of A and saving their money, in 1969 Len and Margaret bought the Belgravia home where Len still lives today with Hilary. They embraced all that came along as Edmonton grew as a city becoming Citadel Theatre season ticket holders when it opened in 1965; visiting the Provincial Museum when it opened in 1967; enjoying the Edmonton Valley Zoo; supporting the building of the Commonwealth Stadium in 1978; cheering for the Edmonton football and hockey teams; attending the Edmonton International Street Performers Festivals that began in 1985, the 1996 World Figure Skating Championships (and meeting Elvis Stojko), and the first Grand Prix at the downtown airport in 2005. The whole family took a keen interest in all that was making Edmonton a great city.

Len's community contributions include 15 years with the 504 Air Cadets Squadron at the 700 Wing eventually as Commanding Officer (with several of his air cadets becoming pilots for Air Canada and Ward Air) and many years with the Edmonton Referee Association as a referee for junior games during soccer season. His interests have been varied and his energy for being involved is obvious. Even after retiring from the U of A, Len took a job as a researcher for the members of the Alberta Legislature.

To Len, life has settled into a daily routine in the last 20 years; being old "means you can sleep when you want, eat when you want, read whatever you want, and not fuss anymore about working or taking care of anyone but yourself and your wife. I have seen many things throughout my life, but am happiest when I see my children and my grandchildren. I hope to live to be 110, because then I will have lived as a retired gentleman longer than I worked!"

## Sustainability Update - Air Monitor Installed at the Hall

There is so much in the news these days about air quality and air pollution, and you may have seen the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) as a part of the weather forecast. But, have you ever wondered about the quality of the air we are breathing in our neighbourhood? Well, now you can find out! We are excited to announce that the BCL hall is now a host site for an air monitor! This is part of an initiative organized by Alberta Capital Airshed - the air monitor was installed in December and will be in place for 1-2 years. Next time you pass by the hall, see if you can spot it - it is quite small (about the size of a mug) and is installed on one of the wooden poles by the skating rink!

You can see the live air quality data at:

- 1. https://www.purpleair.com
- 2. https://capitalairshed.ca/
- 3. and on the BCL website

Read below for more details about this project. Many thanks to Gary Redmond at ACA for providing this information.



The Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA) is one of 10 not-for-profit Airshed organizations in Alberta, responsible for monitoring and reporting on the ambient (outdoor) air quality. Alongside our partners at Alberta Environment and Parks, who manage a network of 7 stations, Alberta's Airsheds operate 85 permanent stations, several portable stations and hundreds of micro sensors and passive monitoring sites.

Our primary mandate is to monitor the air quality and report to stakeholders, including communities. We stream live air quality data on our website, create data analysis and trends reports, and provide data necessary for the Air Quality Health Index, a number between 1 and 10 that is being used widely to advise people of the current and forecasted air quality. For those that use Twitter, you will see that the ACA tweets out a daily forecast for Edmonton and surrounding communities every day at 8 AM (@yegairshed).

ACA and the other Airsheds also disseminate information and engage communities on air quality and the importance of clean air. We are a multi-stakeholder organization that is funded by grants and our members, which include municipalities, community groups, health agencies, industry, provincial government, academia, and others.

One of our newest initiatives is to build out a network of micro sensors that monitor fine particulate matter. In Edmonton, we are doing this through partnerships with the City of Edmonton Rec Centres, Community Leagues, and Schools. Fine particulate matter, or  $PM_{2.5}$ , is a term for small particles that are found in the air.  $PM_{2.5}$  comes from a variety of sources including road dust, engine combustion, fires, building heating, and many more, and contain various chemical compositions. For human health,  $PM_{2.5}$  is of growing concern and "has been shown in a large number of studies to be strongly associated with cardiovascular and respiratory mortality and morbidity endpoints" (Health Canada), and is often now used as an indicator for overall air quality.

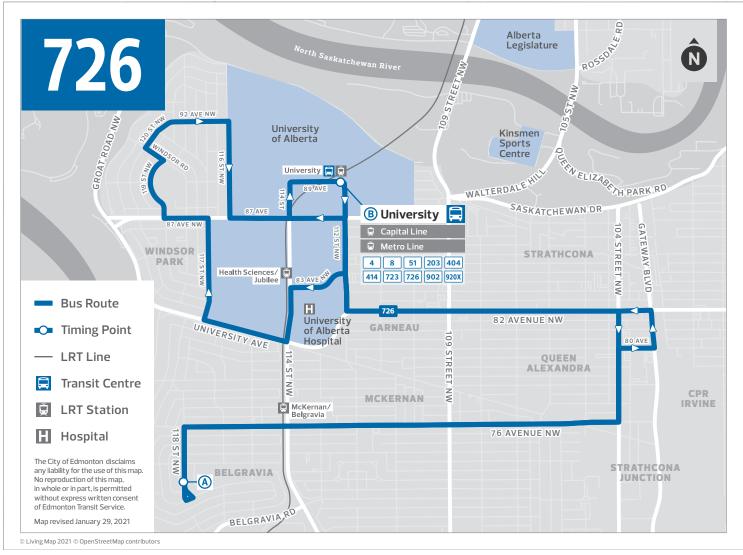
For Belgravia, we are using a Purple Air sensor. It will appear on our website's monitoring map, alongside live data from other sites, and also at www.purpleair.com where it can be compared with sites around the world. The map data layer setting at the bottom left-hand side can be changed to 'Canadian AQHI'. While it is not actually a true representation of AQHI (as it is only monitoring for  $PM_{2.5}$ , and not  $O_3$  and  $NO_x$  that are used in the official AQHI calculation) it allows for an easy interface for Canadian users.

The value of the data collected goes beyond just a quick glance of comparable sensors. The ACA uses all of data collected for our reports on the Airshed (greater Edmonton) and can help alert us, and others, to potential issues within a neighbourhood that may require investigation or expanded monitoring. As a host site, the ACA will provide future data reports, comparing Belgravia with other neighbourhoods in the Edmonton area.

To learn more about air quality and ways to take action see: https://www.edmonton.ca/airquality and https://capitalairshed.ca/

Imogen Sellman, Sustainability Coordinator sustainability@belgraviaedmonton.ca

# **Bus Routes Are Changing April 25th!**



Edmonton's bus network redesign takes effect April 25, 2021, and includes the updated Route 726 for the Belgravia community (pictured above). In addition to Route 726, the following area changes will be made:

OLD ROUTE#	NEW ROUTE #	WHAT CHANGES?	
4	4	Minor Route Change(s)	
30/36	703/724	Major Route Change(s)	
50/53	702	Major Route Change(s)	
133	920X	New Number Designation	
318	726	New Number Designation	
ROUTES NO LONGER OPERATING #32, #43, #55, #106, #319			

Please note in addition to route changes, arrival/departure times at stops may change accordingly.

#### For More Information

Visit takeets.com for Interactive Route maps, Bus Stop maps, and Route Frequency Lookup to help (re)plan your trips. You can also call 311 to speak with a representative about the Bus Network Redesign or your travel needs.

# History of Belgravia - First Edition

The development of the McKernan and Belgravia neighbourhoods has been largely influenced by surrounding development, most notably that related to the University of Alberta, founded in 1908, and the University Farm, established in the 1930s. Government, medical and university facilities built in the area became important employment and activity centres for residents of these neighbourhoods.

In 1878 Robert and Sara McKernan settled south of the North Saskatchewan River and soon built a farmhouse on the site of the present-day McKernan School. A marshy pond nearby was called McKernan Lake and eventually became a popular recreation place in both summer and winter.

Belgravia was named after a fashionable residential section of 19th century London, England. It was originally subdivided before 1914 but few homes were built in this period.

Source: McKernan-Belgravia Station Area Redevelopment Plan Office Consolidation August 2014



City of Edmonton Archives EA- 257-12 Mckernan Lake 1913

Belgravia is on Treaty Six territory and as such was for ages the preserve of First Nations, especially Cree. The main topographic elements of Belgravia have not changed since that time - the nearby river valley, the Belgravia coulee (or draw) that carried a stream from the Belgravia and U of A Farm uplands to the river, and nearby Whitemud Creek.

Source: Belgravia Community League. Grant Proposal for History Book Project. 2019.

### History of Belgravia - First Edition (continued)



Northeast of Belgravia, the town of Strathcona sprung up at the end of the Calgary & Edmonton Railway (which had arrived in 1891). Strathcona became a city (in 1907) and its boundaries were extended to take in Belgravia. But it was only after the cities of Strathcona and Edmonton (located across the North Saskatchewan River) amalgamated in 1912 that any serious suburban settlement began.

Robert Tegler (of Tegler Building fame) put Belgravia lots on the market in 1912, and envisioned quick sales and quick profits. But, a general economic slump tied to WWI slowed sales. Even after the war ended and soldiers came home, Alberta, still with a mostly-agricultural economy, was fairly stagnant. It would not be until the brink of the Great Depression that Edmonton would achieve the population level that it had had prior to WWI.

After the Depression hit, many people fled Edmonton to eke out self-sufficient back-to-the-land existences outside the struggling money economy staggering along in the cities. Belgravia was part of this demographic process. Some people fled to Belgravia and others fled even further away from suburban demands.

The McKernan District Community League was founded in 1932. Its territory included Belgravia, which would not have its own community league until 20 years later. The two communities, softly-divided by a boundary without meaning on the ground, would share concerns and victories through time thereafter.

A second "Great War" followed the Depression. Many Belgravians were involved in the war effort, some in uniform, some in war industries and on the home front, others keeping the home fires burning. The staggering volume of production of war materiel led to high employment and many women joined the workforce.

Source: Belgravia Community League. Grant Proposal for History Book Project. 2019.

# Junior Belgravians! This page is just for you!

Playing in Spring Poem

By Hazel and Alma, junior Belgravians

We play and play 'till the sun starts to dim. We play and play but don't want in. We play in spring.

We play and play 'till our toes get numb, but we have oh so fun. We like to play 'till the sun starts to set, but do we have to go in yet?

We play and play, time goes like the breeze, our toes and fingers start to freeze.

Off to dinner we go in the spring.

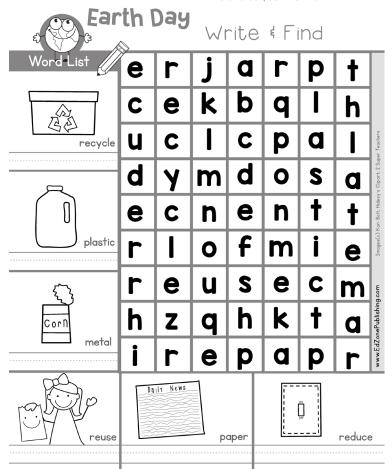
#### Earth Day Fill-in

Earth Day is celebrated every year on				
The first Earth Day was				
celebrated in the year to raise				
awareness about issues.				
Cardboard toilet paper tubes can take				
to decompose in a A				
plastic bottle can take up to				
to break down! Both of these items can be				
or Trees help				
keep the air and healthy for us to				
and provide and				
for other animals.				

Word List:		
landfill	repurposed breathe	
clean	April 22	2 months
450 years	recycled	food
1970	shelter	environmental

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/earth-day

http://www.supercoloring.com/sections/coloring-pages Eva London, CC BY-SA 4.0



https://kindergartenmom.com/earth-day-printables/

Crack the code: solve the math problems then fill in the blanks below with the corresponding letter

3+2 =m	10+3 =r	6+4 =k	8+4 =e
7+2 =d	4+3 =n	2+2 =c	8+0 =y
8+3 =i	3+3 =l	1+5 =p	9+7 =a

13 12 4 8 4 6 12