



the belgravian

Connecting neighbours. | **February 2023**

Belgravia Community League

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Contact Us

Email: info@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Phone: 780-437-1866 (phone not monitored)

Visit us Online

Website: belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facebook: [belgraviaedmonton](https://www.facebook.com/belgraviaedmonton)
Twitter: [@belgraviaYEG](https://twitter.com/belgraviaYEG)

Next submission deadline: March 16, 2023

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UPCOMING EVENT: FAMILY DAY IN BELGRAVIA

Monday, February 20 2023, 1–4 pm
Belgravia Community League Hall
Free admission

Join us on February 20 in and around the BCL hall, for Family Day activities with old and new friends!

- Broomball and snow-building fun
- Craft activities for kids
- Cookies and hot chocolate

Stay tuned for details on our website and Twitter, and by e-mail to BCL members.



About our Newsletter

Published by Belgravia Community League, the *belgravian* newsletter connects you with community news, programs, events and other developments in and around the Belgravia area.

Frequency

We publish 6 issues per year.

Monthly Distribution

We deliver ~1,100 copies to homes in Belgravia.

Read the newsletter online

belgraviaedmonton.ca/newsletter/

Send us your stories

Article submissions are subject to editorial discretion and available space. To submit an article, contact newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

ADVERTISE WITH US

Ads can be submitted to: newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

File Types & Resolution

We accept ads in PDF, JPG, PNG and TIF formats – 200 dpi at 100% (full-size).

Ad Payment Methods

Cheque: payable to Belgravia Community League

E-transfer: treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca – include message: 'Newsletter Ad'.

Rates per Issue: Get a 10% discount for multiple ads paid in advance.

Issue	Content Deadline	Delivery
February 2023	Jan 19	Feb 4/5
April 2023	Mar 16	Mar 25/26
June 2023	May 18	May 27/28
August 2023	July 13	July 22/23
October 2023	Sept 14	Sep 23/24
December 2023	Nov 16	Nov 25/26

Card size
8.5 cm x 6 cm

1/4 page
8.5 cm x 12 cm

1/2 page
18 cm x 12 cm

All businesses
BCL Member: \$25
Non-Member: \$50

Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor
Park businesses only
BCL Member: \$50
Non-Member: \$75

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BCL Member: \$75
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LET'S GET YOU
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scan to learn more

The BCL is only as strong as its members.

Please join!

Buy a membership online at:
belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/

or email: membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca

If you're new to Belgravia, memberships are complimentary for the first year.

Board & Committee Contacts

BCL Board Members		
President	Michael Cohen	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Vice President	Eleanor Olszewski	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Past President	Cory Dawson	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Secretary	Scott MacLean	secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Treasurer	Shirley Perry	treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Membership Director	Jane Taylor	membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Planning & Place Director	Don Grimble	planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Communications Director	Lou Morin	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Programs Director	Debbie Smith	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facilities Director	Ken Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-Large	Irene Andersson	abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-Large	Christina Lau Hoang	director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Director-at-Large	Barry Edgar	director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Newsletter Ads Manager	vacant	adsmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Program Team		
Made in Belgravia Initiative	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	Lee Klippenstein	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Playschool Teacher	Monika Fouad	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facilities Team		
Hall rental coordinator	Jeanette Boman	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Rink manager	Simon Gosgnach	rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Arts park team leader	Kathy Goble	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Sustainability Coordinator	Imogen Sellman	sustainability@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Community Connections Team		
Neighbourhood Resource Coord.	Kate Russell	kate.russell@edmonton.ca
Elementary Liaison	Cory Dawson	info@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Traffic Committee Chair	Christine Taylor	traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	Alykhan Sumar	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com

Get Involved

Established in 1954, Belgravia Community League (BCL) owns and operates the Hall and rink, built the playgrounds by the school, and developed and maintains the Arts Park – all on land leased from the City. BCL offers many programs and activities and is crucial for representing our neighbourhood interests to City Council on transportation, development and other issues. Support your community by buying a membership and volunteering. We have fine facilities, solid finances and fun programs. You'll be delighted by the great people you'll meet while helping out your community.

BECOME A MEMBER

Belgravia Community League Membership benefits include:

- BCL Hall rental privileges, including Hall Wifi access
- BCL member advertising rate in *the belgravian* newsletter
- Member rate for programs at the Hall
- Complimentary access to BCL events like Fall BBQ, Pumpkin Party, Family Day
- Optional signup for BCL Member email updates with important messages between publications of *the belgravian* newsletter
- Participation in kids' City soccer and hockey (S.W.A.T.) programs
- Discounts for passes and monthly memberships at City of Edmonton recreation facilities through the Community League Wellness Pass
- A number of offers at Orbis Sports
- University of Alberta technology training: training@ualberta.ca
- Posters, wall murals and other printing jobs at Campus Design & Print Solutions: print@ualberta.ca



*Don't forget to wear your BCL
2023 membership skate tag!*

About the BCL skating rink

- As a member benefit, you can access the BCL rink and all city community league rinks with your 2023 BCL membership skate tag
- The skate change room is open 8 AM–10 PM daily; lights are kept on until 9:45 PM
- A schedule with protected times for family skates vs. hockey action is posted near the entrance to the ice

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH BCL

Please consider joining the BCL's team of volunteers. It's a great way to meet new friends and contribute to our community.

We have current or pending openings for the following key positions:

Director of Planning and Place

Represents the BCL in interactions with the City of Edmonton and developers on issues of development and traffic, and keeps residents informed. Jerreck did a wonderful job with this role the past few years, followed by Don who is now ready to pass it on. It's a good match for someone who is interested in civic affairs and the way Edmonton and Belgravia will develop.

continued on next page...

Get Involved – continued

Director of Programs

Helps instructors and participants organize programs run in our community hall, and helps to organize special events such as our annual fall BBQ. Debbie has helped Belgravians get moving, meeting and mingling for the past term but has now moved out of Belgravia. She is graciously continuing to help with Programs but a new volunteer is much needed! If you are good at listening, and enjoy meeting new people and organizing events this position is right for you.

Director of Facilities

Oversees the maintenance of our hall and surrounding grounds, working with volunteers and contractors. Ken has been doing this pretty hefty job (let's be honest) for several years with joy and pride. The perfect match would be someone who has some technical knowledge, a "doer" who gets bored when things are slow.

Hall Rental Coordinator

Manages hall rental for private events, BCL programs and other programming. Jeanette has taken care of this for a long time now. She is still willing to help with a transition to someone who is a good listener, friendly, good with organizing, and likes to meet new people. Being flexible time-wise also helps! If you live close to the hall on top of that – this might be for you!

To learn more

Contact Michael: president@belgraviaedmonton.ca

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Project Updates

Charles Simmonds Park Renewal Concept Design

by Gail Fraser-Steffler

Following the completion of the Playground Location Survey, the Charles Simmonds Park Renewal Committee and the City have worked together to develop a park concept design that focuses on inclusivity and accessibility while retaining open space. The playground will remain in its current location.



1. **Accessibility:** A paved, asphalt pathway along the north side of the park from 115 Street to the playground will provide access to the park and the playground for people of all ages and abilities.
2. **Seating:** Seating will be added along the pathway and around the playground.
3. **Picnic Tables:** Permanent picnic tables will be located at the playground and along the path. Moveable picnic tables will be considered for other locations in the park.
4. **Playground:** Specifications for new playground equipment will be developed in the next phase of the project, the Preliminary Design Phase. The surfacing of the playground will be wood chips (technically accessible). One existing sandbox on the south edge of the current playground will be retained.
5. **Covered Picnic Shelter:** A covered picnic shelter is shown in the design. This is a fairly costly addition and will only be included in the current project if there is adequate funding. The foundations for the shelter will be installed initially so it can be added later.

We are in the process of setting up an online donation process. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations over \$20.

Please contact charlessimmondspark@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

Project Updates

Charles Simmonds Park Renewal Concept Design – continued

In addition to donating funds, you can support the renewal project by purchasing Tru Earth products through the Charles Simmonds Park fundraiser.

To purchase products through the fundraiser, visit: <https://fundraising.tru.earth/mckernancommunity>

*Support
Charles Simmonds Park Renewal*

OLD ME



Used liquid detergent in heavy plastic bottles that can contain up to 80% water

NEW ME



Uses Eco Strips that are lightweight, in compostable packaging, and contain only concentrated detergent

TRU EARTH

PS... Shop through our fundraising link and we earn 20% profit!

<https://fundraising.tru.earth/mckernancommunity>

Belgravia Rink Renewal – Brief Update

Based on research conducted during spring 2022, the Project Team recommended that rink renewal take the form of a “traditional boarded rink with a hard surface.” The BCL Board supported this recommendation as a strategic starting point subject to more detailed analysis during the next stage of the process and subject to financial resources. Approval to move from the strategic phase to the concept phase of the project was received from the City in December. Stay tuned for further announcements and opportunities to provide input.

Anyone interested in providing input now or in volunteering for the project is encouraged to contact:

rinkrenewal@belgraviaedmonton.ca

TIPS FOR HOSTING A BLOCK PARTY – THE SIMPLE WAY

by Irene Andersson

Full-blown block parties are fun, but they do require some planning, getting signatures from neighbours to allow blocking the road for example. Those steps might even prevent that gathering of neighbours from happening. Instead, here are some tips for doing it the simple way:

- A. Don't overthink it – jump in. Keep it low maintenance for you - the important thing is to gather and connect.
- B. Consider easy “pop-up” socials. (One advantage is folks don't have to hang on to a far-away date.)
- C. Think about ‘drop-in’ socials versus formal start and end times to keep things easy breezy for everyone. A one to 2-hour window is usually good.
- D. Invite at least one other person who you know will show up so you will have had a neighbourly visit no matter what.
- E. Spread the word, using the block contact list or flyers in mail boxes. Be inclusive!
- F. Set up a sign-in sheet with permissions to share email addresses/cell numbers and photos. Otherwise, it's more work to get these after the fact.
- G. Take pictures! They are nice to have as mementos and also to share the fun with and inspire the rest of the neighbourhood.
- H. Provide neighbours with nametags! The name tags can include a line for interest (great conversations starter).

And finally, some invitation ideas:

Hot Chocolate Neighbour Social

Tomorrow from 6–8 pm, bring a mug, drop in, say hi!

The snowy front lawn of

—

Back alley meet and greet

Come by our fire pit on Saturday for a hot apple cider and cookie

1:30 to 2:30 pm

—

Block social snow bowling tournament!

Sunday 1–3pm

The driveway of.....

Mulled wine – bring your own cup

Programs

WINTER 2023 PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES AT THE BCL HALL

We have some exciting programs for Belgravians to join and meet up with friends just a walk away from home. Contact us soon for information and/or to get your name on the registration list.

Class	Day	Time	Hall	Registration Contact
Pilaga (Pilates/Yoga)	Mondays: Jan 9–Mar 6 Tuesdays: Jan 10–Mar 7	8:30–9:30 am 7–8 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca or call: 780-722-6480
Girls Guides	Mondays	6:30–8:30 pm	Lower	crzcampr@telus.net
Soapstone Carving	Mondays: Jan 9–Mar 20	7–9 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca Max. 16/class For more info: patgal@shaw.ca
Boot Camp	Tuesdays Thursdays	7:30–8:30 am 8–9 am	Lower	susan.andrew@shaw.ca
Music & Movement for Preschoolers	Tuesdays: Feb 7–Apr 11	10–10:45 am	Upper	nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com
Mat Yoga	Tuesdays Session 1: Jan 10–Feb 28 Session 2: Mar 7–April 25 Thursdays Session 1: Jan 12–Mar 2 Session 2: Mar 9–April 27	9:45-10:45 am 9:45-10:45 am	Lower	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca Max. 10/class
Fit for Life	Tuesdays Session 1: Jan 10–Feb 28 Session 2: Mar 7–April 25 Thursdays Session 1: Jan 12–Mar 2 Session 2: Mar 9–April 27	11–12 noon 11–12 noon	Lower	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca Max. 12/class
Pilates/Barre	Tuesdays: Jan 10–Mar 14 Thursdays: Jan 12–Mar 16	7–8 pm	Lower	t.e.fedoruk@icloud.com Drop-ins welcome
Knitters Group	Tuesdays	7:30–9 pm	Upper	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Walking Club	Wednesdays (no fee)	10 am	Upper Door	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca or call 780-722-6480
Kids Drama Academy	Wed: Jan 25–Apr 26	3:45–5:15 pm	Upper	moxybstudio@gmail.com
NIA Dance	Thursdays: Jan 5–Mar 30	7–8 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca or call 780-722-6480
Belgravia Playschool	Tues/Wed/Thurs Optional lunch program	8:30-11:30 am 11:30-12:30 pm	Lower	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca

WINTER IN BELGRAVIA

Here are 10 activities to make the most of winter:

1. Take a winter tour of Belgravia – observe sleeping winter gardens, and donate or pick up a book at a free little library along the way.
2. Look out for your neighbours and keep the Abundant Belgravia spirit alive.
3. Enjoy the outdoors – take in the frozen view from the painted benches at Keillor Point, or head down the path to admire the newly-designated historic Keillor farmstead buildings. Don't forget to bring (unsalted) sunflower seeds for the chickadees!
4. Or stay inside and read stories about Belgravia at the [Edmonton City as Museum Project](#).
5. Take a spin at the rink. With your [BCL membership](#) you can access all community league skating rinks. Or get a discount at City of Edmonton facilities through the [Community League Wellness Program](#).
6. Help keep hunger and cold away – the [Campus Food Bank](#) welcomes students in need, and donations of food and funds. Warm clothing items are especially welcome at [Bissell Centre](#).
7. Many talented authors have lived in Belgravia. Skip a trip to the library and take out [Alberta e-books and audiobooks online](#) with your EPL card.
8. Get moving at the Hall – [enroll in one of our many winter programs](#). Find activities for all, from preschool music and movement classes to Belgravia's own Knitters Group.
9. Enjoy hot drinks and cozy dishes from one of our fine local restaurants or cafés.
10. The mini luge run on 'Mt. Belgravia' (the hill just to the east of the hall) is a neighbourhood gem. This year's special curve-run adds extra thrills for little (and not-so-little) Belgravians.

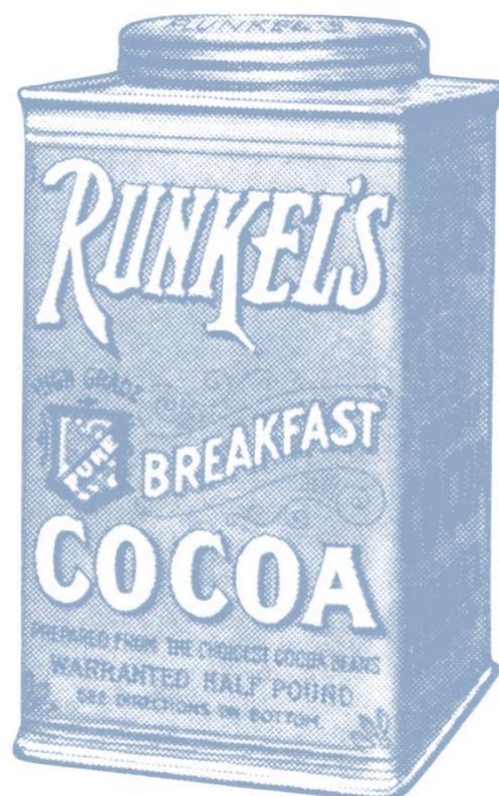
A CLOSE BRUSH

From a concerned resident:

A 20+ year resident of Belgravia, I've seen a few solo coyotes out and about while walking our dogs, but they usually head in the opposite direction and don't bother with us. However, on January 11 around 8:30 pm at the corner of 77 Ave. and 118 St., my dog and I came upon one coyote across the street from us, and all of a sudden three others joined it. They were not aggressive, but checked us out while my dog and I headed to the front door of the closest house to seek refuge. While I waited on the porch, they left the area heading east on 77 Ave.

Remember to stay aware and carry a whistle or other noisemaker when out in the evenings. And report any sightings to both of the following:

- City of Edmonton:
https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighborhoods/pets_wildlife/what-to-do-if-you-encounter-a-coyote
- Urban Coyote Project:
<https://www.edmontonurbancoyotes.ca/>



Events: Recent Happenings

2022 HOLIDAY MARKET

December 7: A big thank-you to the artisans and volunteers who made the 2022 Holiday Market happen, and the +300 visitors who shopped local at BCL Hall on December 7. We were excited to see a strong contingent of young Belgravians set up stalls. Special thanks to: hard-working holiday market organizers Jeanette Boman and Brenda Philp; Ruth Craig who demonstrated spinning; Jane Norby and Jennifer Lambert for setting up the Christmas tree; Reg Norby for supplying candy canes; Lou Morin who was greeter and photographer; Olivia Taylor who helped in so many ways to make the event a success.

View the full photo album on the BCL website: belgraviaedmonton.ca/2022-holiday-market-photo-album



Market attendees shopping local, and young Belgravians selling their amazing wares

Meet Your Neighbour

SIMON AND MORGAIN HOLLINGHURST

by Jeanette Boman

If houses could talk, imagine the stories that Belgravia's first designated historical house on 75 Ave & 115 St could tell. We would learn how the foursquare, 2 ½ story, wood-framed farmhouse was built in c. 1912 by William Fraser, and how it stood alone among the fields and willow bushes surrounding McKernan Lake. It would tell us about Walter Rose, a Worker's Compensation Board claims officer buying it in the early 1920s, and how after WW2 it still stood tall amongst the mainly single and 1 ½ story bungalows that began to shape Belgravia as a neighbourhood. With the U of A nearby, we wouldn't be surprised to learn it was sold again in 1946 to Professor Brian Hocking and how, when he died in 1974, it was passed on to his son, Dr. Drake Hocking. In 1978 when Drake's work took him abroad, the house could talk about the people who rented it over the years.

It might describe its pride in being [designated a municipal historic resource](#) in 2010 and how it was restored to its original glory when the Hocking family secured rehabilitation funds from the City and Province. While waiting for the Hockings to return 'home' from England, the house stood steadfast for the next several years as renters came and went. When a For Sale sign went up though, it might have wondered if its century-old charm would ever appeal to a new owner. If finally got an answer in 2018 when Simon and Morgain Hollinghurst came along – a couple experienced in buying and restoring old houses while living in them. It could not have been a better match.

Simon is a chemical engineer with Celanese – a job now based in Edmonton but one that has taken the family to Hungary and Texas over the past 20 years. While Morgain had studied history, linguistics and law before meeting Simon, she became full-time mom to their three children and general family life manager as they went from one adventure to another.

Beyond being committed to work and family, their true passion for bringing their Belgravia property to its full potential has come shining through.



Brick walkways have been laid, country flowerbeds planted and back yard raised beds built for growing vegetables with a small orchard off to one side. Influenced by Belgravia's master beekeeper Jack Maguire and Morgain taking a year-long beekeeping course, they've also located beehives in a back corner. And what would a century-old house be without a clothesline? A walk down the back alley offers a glimpse of sheets and towels billowing in the wind soon to be followed by sounds of some happy hens this spring when Simon completes the City's Urban Hens program. Simon confides that when his chemical engineering days are over he would like to one day be a subsistence farmer.

And what might the house say about all these developments? It's hard not to see the sense of coherence that Simon and Morgain bring to this historical property – a wonderful "coming full circle" back to 1912 when growing and preserving food was the norm for the Fraser family. And for Belgravia ... aren't we lucky to have this part of our history so well respected and preserved?

Protecting Belgravia's Singular Elm Trees

ELM PRUNING MUST BE DONE BETWEEN OCT 1–MAR 31

by Janet Feddes-Calpas

Ex. Director, Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED)

Did you know Alberta has the largest DED-free stand of American elm in the world? Which means Belgravia's large collection of stunning, mature elm trees is rare indeed. Elms provide not only beauty but essential environmental protection, mitigating urban heat island effect by reducing surface temperatures by several degrees.

Although Alberta is still free of DED (Dutch Elm Disease), its borders are being pressed from two sides, Saskatchewan and Montana, both battling the disease.

There is no cure once an elm is infected, but DED can be prevented. Elm sanitation such as removal and proper disposal of dead wood and dead elm is essential to a DED prevention program. The only time it is legal to prune elms in Alberta is between October 1 and March 31. This is when the European elm bark beetles, responsible for spreading the deadly DED fungus, are not active.

Elm bark beetles feed on healthy elms and breed and overwinter in dead and dying elm trees. If elm trees are pruned between April 1 and September 30, these vectors of the disease will be drawn to the scent of the fresh pruning cuts, potentially attracting infested beetles and infecting your otherwise healthy elm.

What you can do

Having your trees pruned properly and at the right time of year is important. A professional arborist can determine what type of pruning is necessary to maintain or improve their health, appearance and safety. Topping or removing an excessive amount of live wood is not recommended; this will weaken the tree's structure and shorten its lifespan. It is essential that all dead elm wood be removed and properly disposed of by burning, burying or chipping by March 31. It is also illegal to store elm firewood.

We must stay vigilant to keep our elms healthy and help prevent Dutch Elm Disease.

More information

Stay informed on how to prevent DED:

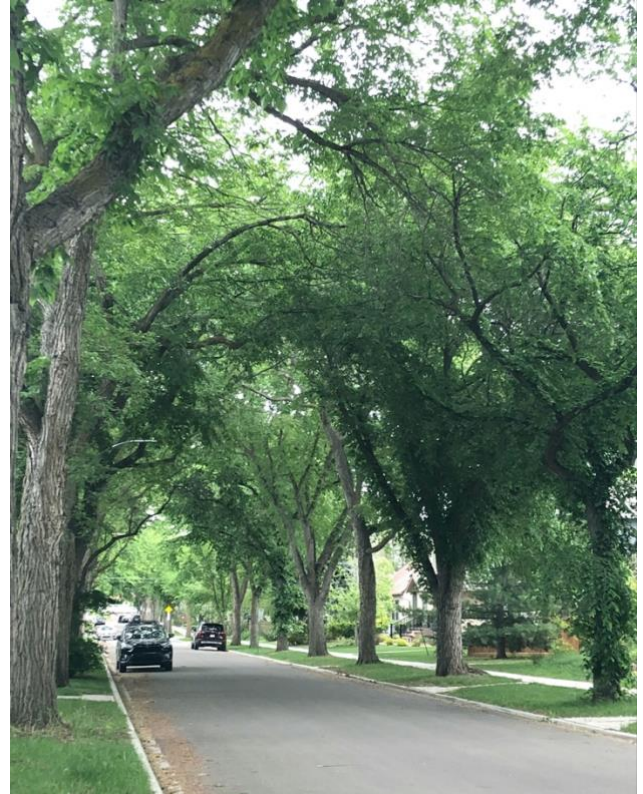
call the STOPDED hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS or check out: www.stopded.org

Report pests, or sick or dead trees, to the City's DED prevention program:

https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/dutch-elm-disease

Read about the University of Alberta's urban heat island research:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/folio/2022/08/islands-in-the-heat.html>



American elm lining a street in Belgravia

