



the belgravian

Connecting neighbours. | December 2022

Belgravia Community League

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

Next submission deadline: January 19, 2023

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Many more mid-rise buildings coming to Belgravia

Edmonton's population is projected to grow to 2 million people by 2060. The Edmonton City Plan, adopted by City Council in 2020, aims to accommodate this growth while limiting urban sprawl, reducing reliance on cars, and providing sufficient affordable housing. Belgravia, like other central neighbourhoods, is expected to do its part to achieve greater population density. To this end, City Council approved the McKernan-Belgravia LRT Station Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) in 2013. The plan illustrates how 3- and 4-story low-rise apartment buildings and stacked row houses would replace older single-family houses along the tracks. To the dismay of many Belgravia and McKernan residents however, we now know that mid-rise buildings of 6 to 8 stories will be built instead.

How and why did this change happen? The story of the proposed Metro 78 development on 78th Ave tells the tale. [See page 5.](#)

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	Jan 28/29
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

Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor
Park businesses only
BCL Member: \$75
Non-Member: \$100

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The BCL is only as strong as its members

Please join!

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

Become a Member & Volunteer

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 or joining the board. 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To volunteer on one of our teams or help out at a community event, reach out to one of our committee contacts. We're also looking for talented Belgravia residents to share their stories, skills and hobbies as part of our Made in Belgravia (MIB) series. If you have an idea, contact MIB Coordinator Jeanette Boman: mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca

BOARD & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

BCL's Board is looking for volunteers to fill these key positions:

Director of Planning and Place (Board Position) – represents the BCL in interactions with the City of Edmonton and developers on development and traffic issues, and helps keep residents informed.

Belgravia Traffic Committee Members – the committee examines solutions to our traffic congestion and how we can work with the City and UofA to implement them, and is looking for new members

Director of Facilities (Board Position) – oversees the maintenance of our hall and surrounding grounds, and works with volunteers who handle hall rentals, skating rink, and other positions.

Hall Rental Coordinator – manages hall rental for private events and BCL and other programming.

The facilities and hall rental positions are evolving, and the board is evaluating whether some aspects might be handled by a part-time hall manager (paid or volunteer).

Contact Michael at president@belgraviaedmonton.ca to learn more about the above positions.

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
- Use of BCL and other community league rinks in the city, with your skate tag
- 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



Access all city community league rinks with your 2022 BCL membership skate tag

Many More Mid-Rise Buildings Coming to Belgravia

METRO 78 DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

Edmonton's population is projected to grow to 2 million people by 2060. The City of Edmonton has set a goal to have 60% of future population growth occur within the Anthony Henday ring road. This policy of increased population density is already affecting Belgravia and McKernan. Most notably, these neighbourhoods will see numerous apartment buildings of 6 to 8 stories built along the south side of University Ave and both sides of 114th St.

The [Edmonton City Plan](#), adopted by City Council in 2020, describes how Edmonton will manage its substantial population growth while limiting urban sprawl, reducing reliance on cars, and providing sufficient affordable housing. Most Belgravians would probably support these goals and as such would agree our neighbourhood must do its part to achieve greater population density. The question asked by the BCL board and many residents already affected by new buildings is 'how much density is enough?'

Belgravians thought we had an answer to this question when City Council approved the [McKernan-Belgravia LRT Station Area Redevelopment Plan](#) (ARP) in 2013. The ARP was the product of years of extensive community consultation and described a vision for development in the 2 neighbourhoods for the next 25 years. The Plan states that buildings along 114th St from University Ave to 71st Ave, on both sides of the LRT tracks, will be limited to 4 stories. (Six storey buildings are permitted on University Ave between 115th St and 113th St.) The ARP has numerous photos and illustrations of low-rise apartment buildings and stacked row houses that would replace older single-family houses along the tracks. To the dismay of many Belgravians, we now know that those 3- and 4-story residences are unlikely to be built. Instead, mid-rise buildings of 6 to 8 stories will be built. How and why did this change happen? The story of the Metro 78 development tells the tale.

[Metro 78](#) is a proposed development at the cul-de-sac where 78th Ave meets the LRT tracks. It calls for 4 houses to be demolished and replaced with two 7-storey apartment buildings with a total of 142 units. This far exceeds the height and density described in the ARP. Many neighbours in the immediate vicinity (working under the banner of the BelMac Neighbours Group) have fought for 3 years to scale back the development, spending countless hours working with the developer, City staff and councillors.

At a public hearing in September of this year, representatives of the BelMac group and the BCL argued forcefully that Council should respect the ARP. They emphasized that the ARP was developed at a substantial cost and with extensive input from residents, has already been successful in increasing density in the area, and is less than 40% through its 25-year lifespan. It was to no avail – Council chose not to request a review of the buildings' height. In a minor victory, Council did vote to ask the City administration to review the waste management pickup route and the extent of impingement upon the green space between Metro 78 and the LRT tracks.

Council's presumed rationale for supporting the proposed 7-storey height of Metro 78 is that higher density is essential in order to meet the target of 60% of population growth within Anthony Henday Drive. Density targets such as those in the McKernan-Belgravia ARP, developed less than 10 years ago, are no longer sufficient. Furthermore, because so much of the land along the tracks in Belgravia and McKernan is close to an LRT station, Council believes that this area can support higher density with a proportionately smaller increase in vehicular traffic.

Council's decision to amend the ARP to allow Metro 78 has huge implications for future development along the LRT tracks in Belgravia and McKernan. It is now highly likely that all the houses adjacent to the tracks will be replaced with buildings of 6 to 8 stories, rather than the 4-storey buildings specified in the ARP. Council will either repeatedly amend the ARP for each development, or it will declare (as Councillor Ashley Salvador has already proposed) that the City Plan (which allows midrise buildings along "secondary corridors" such as 114th St) will take precedence over all ARPs in Edmonton.

Upsides to density

Belgravians may experience some positive changes as density increases. Many Belgravians would like to have more retail and service businesses located within walking distance. There are few such businesses in McKernan and Belgravia, in part because there are not enough potential customers in the immediate area. More businesses may choose to locate here as hundreds of new residential units are built, although on the west side of the LRT tracks the difficulty of vehicular access may continue to be a deterrent. In addition, if sufficient family-friendly apartment units are built and families with young children occupy these units, there should continue to be enough students to keep Belgravia School in operation. Finally, all Edmontonians will benefit from limitations to Edmonton's urban sprawl and a reduction in dependence on cars.

What's a community league to do?

In August, the BCL board voted to submit a letter to the Mayor and Council urging them uphold the ARP and reject Metro 78. The board reached this decision by considering the overwhelming opposition to Metro 78 in surveys conducted by the City and by the BCL itself. Belgravians believe that we did our part to support densification by accepting the reasonable density increase described in the ARP. We thought we had a deal with the City. Evidently we did not.

It appears that the battle to uphold the height limits in the ARP has been fought and lost, but the BCL board will continue to defend the interests of our community. We will work with developers, the City, and other community leagues to manage the impact of multiple new mid-rise buildings. We will fight for adherence to proper construction zone protocols; for protection of green areas; for safe sidewalks, roads and alleys in the face of increased traffic by construction vehicles, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, and cars; and for higher numbers of family-friendly units of 2 and 3 bedrooms in the new buildings.

The BCL board welcomes your comments and suggestions for future action. I look forward to hearing from you at president@belgraviaedmonton.ca.

Michael Cohen, BCL president

BELMAC NEIGHBOURS GROUP STATEMENT

Over the last 3 years, a group of neighbours who live near the proposed Metro 78 development have worked with the McKernan and Belgravia Community Leagues, City administration, and the developer to find solutions that work for all of us. As part of this effort, 16 neighbours presented concerns about the proposal at the City Council hearing on September 13. In the end, Council voted to return the proposal to city administration to review safety concerns and the reduction in the green space beside the LRT tracks but felt the 7-storey height was reasonable for this location.

We were disheartened with this meeting. It was not a forum that enabled a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of whether Metro 78 fits within the framework of existing guidelines. In talking with people from many other communities, we have realized our situation is a symptom of a much wider city issue. Communities are at a significant disadvantage to address concerns given their limited resources, time and expertise. Further, the City of Edmonton, unlike some other Canadian cities, does not increase transparency and trust by having a lobbyist registry, mandatory reporting of lobbyist activities, and post-employment prohibition for former city public office holders.

Metro78 will be discussed again at Council on December 6. Neighbours will again advocate strongly for community concerns. Please consider following us on Twitter to stay informed ([@belmacgroup](https://twitter.com/belmacgroup)), providing support by writing a letter to Council, attending the hearing, and of course contacting us or the community leagues if you have any questions: belmacneighbours@googlegroups.com

Roni Kraut, Ariane Fielding & Jeff Bisanz (BelMac Neighbours Group)

Get Involved

EXPLORING A BELMAC COMMUNITY GARDEN

by Allan Suddaby

Exploration into the development of a Belgravia-McKernan community garden has begun. Michael Frost presented his intention to start a BelMac Community Garden working group at the November BCL Board Meeting, as well as at the October McKernan Community League Meeting.

Michael's next task is to find interested community members and establish a working group. They will work to determine the ideal site for a garden and apply for permits and funding, pending approvals by the community leagues. The choice of location will be based on accessibility and suitability for gardening. Charles Simmonds Park and McKernan Park are possibilities.

Community gardens rent plots to residents who don't have access to a yard, such as people living in apartments or secondary suites. The demand for greenspace and garden plots in the BelMac area is expected to rise significantly over the coming years with the construction of mid-rise apartment buildings along the 114th St corridor.

While there are many ways to structure a community garden, most are an allotment system in which participants pay an annual fee for their plot, and then contribute a set number of hours to the upkeep of the garden as a whole.

Besides giving communities an opportunity to garden and grow food, Michael laid out many other benefits. Community gardens act as social hubs and gathering spaces; provide a location where local organizations like daycares can learn about gardening and food production; build awareness of local food security; help pollinators and related wildlife; and can be a boon to neighbourhood beautification. Besides the garden plots themselves, there are opportunities for landscape elements such as a small orchard with fruit trees and berry bushes.

Michael is currently gauging community interest and looking for individuals who would like to contribute to this project. No gardening experience is required. If you would like to learn more or would like to participate in the working group, email Michael Frost at: greanland101@gmail.com.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

11526 - 76 Avenue NW www.stpaulsunited.org

Sunday December 18

10:30 a.m. family pageant

Wednesday December 21

7:30 p.m. worship on the longest night



Christmas Eve

4 p.m. for young children and their families

8 p.m. candlelit worship

We would love to have you join us!



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

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heather.mcpherson@parl.gc.ca

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Get Involved

BELGRAVIA RINK SURVEY: WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

by Tom Hinch

A community survey was conducted from March 28 to May 16, 2022 – 141 responses were received. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey! This is what we heard.

Respondents had lived in Belgravia for 10 or fewer years (41%), 11-20 years (28%), 21 or more years (31%). A full range of age cohorts resided at the residences of respondents with the exception of those aged 20-29 (e.g. university students) who were under represented. 95% percent of the respondents lived in single-family residences.

51% indicated they had used the rink during the winter on average at least once a month or more in the past (skating & hockey). Use was lower in the spring, summer and fall, with only 24% indicating that they had used the rink on a monthly basis (e.g., children's soccer & enclosed dog run).

In response to an open-ended question about preferred future winter activities, 72% listed skating and 55% hockey. During the spring, summer and fall, 9 distinct activities were listed, led by: tennis (18%), pickle ball (17%), soccer (15%) and biking (15%). Strong opinions both for and against dog-related activities were raised. Respondents indicated that if their preferred activities were available, they would substantially increase their use of the rink with 82% indicating they would use the facility at least monthly during the winter – 84% indicated their households would use it at least monthly during the spring, summer and fall.

When asked to rate the importance of 9 specific activities with 1 being unimportant and 5 being important, the top 5 activities were: hockey/skating (4.44%), racquet sports (3.86%), winter events (3.69%), spring, summer, fall events (3.78%), and community markets/gardens (3.37%).

Based on their activity preferences, respondents ranked 3 general rink configurations. The top configuration was “traditional boarded rink with a paved base” (42% 1st choice, 37% 2nd choice, 21% 3rd choice). A traditional boarded rink with a grass base ranked 2nd (37% 1st choice, 38% 2nd choice, 25% 3rd choice) while an outdoor landscaped area which was described as being ‘a pond-like skating area in the winter and a multifunctional dry space in the other seasons’ was ranked 3rd (23% 1st choice, 23% 2nd choice, 54% 3rd choice).

All of the proposed strategic objectives were seen to be important by respondents with the most important being “to provide a safe and secure activity space” (90%). This was followed by accessibility (72%), increasing population density (70%), increasing neighborhood diversity (68%), and environmentally sensitive design (66%).

A range of 45 comments closed out the survey. Common themes included: 1) the need to manage conflicts between general skating and hockey activities, 2) the need to consider the relationship between the rink and adjacent activity areas; 3) sensitivity to costs; and 4) management issues like scheduling & rule enforcement. As in the case of contradictory views on dog-based activities mentioned earlier, there were polarized views on: 1) soft-scaping (e.g. grass) versus hard-scaping (e.g., hard surface); and 2) restricting the focus to winter activities versus expanding to include activities in the spring, summer & fall.

Next steps

The Project Team and BCL Board are studying these findings in combination with input from Belgravia Elementary School and other stakeholders to determine an underlying strategy. Once this has been determined, then approved by the City, the next phase of the project is to develop a more detailed concept for rink renewal with ongoing input from the community.

Programs

WINTER 2023 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 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	Lower	susan.andrew@shaw.ca
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	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	Lower	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca Max. 12/class
Pilates/Barre	Tuesdays: Nov 22–Dec 20 Thursdays: Nov 24–Dec 23 (2023 dates TBA)	7–8 pm	Lower	t.e.fedoruk@icloud.com Drop-ins welcome!
Knitters Group	Tuesdays	7–9 pm	Upper	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Walking Club	Wednesdays	10 am	Upper	Meet @ upper hall doors; no fee
NIA Dance	Thursdays: Jan 5–Mar 9	7–8 pm	Upper	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
BCL Playschool	Tues/Wed/Thurs Optional lunch program	8:30–11:30 am 11:30–12:30 pm	Lower	playschool@belgraviaedmonton.ca

MORE INFO

Soapstone carving

This popular class returns with Belgravian Pat Galbraith as the instructor to help you carve art from soapstone for 2 hours each Monday evening. \$150/10 weeks.

Pilaga

This combination of pilates and yoga is suitable for all fitness levels, with variations to make poses easier or more challenging. The focus is on mindful movement and of course to have fun!

Walking group

Meet us Wednesday mornings at 10 am at the upper BCL Hall doors, where neighbours head out to nearby enjoy trails and nature. Some rarely miss a walk while others drop in when they can. It's great exercise at a pace dependent on the walkers, and varies from 1 to 2 hours depending on the weather.

HOLIDAY MARKET OFFERS AMAZING VARIETY OF GIFTS

BCL Hall, Wednesday, Dec 7 2022, 5–8 pm

A surprising number of renowned and highly talented artists, artisans, authors and designers live in the community. The annual Belgravia Holiday Market on December 7th promises to be a wonderful opportunity to meet your creative neighbours and do some Christmas shopping by buying local.

With more than 24 vendors registered, you're guaranteed to find a unique gift for someone on your list. This year's wares include stained glass pieces, hand-woven tea towels, tree ornaments, pottery, sculpture, hand-painted cards, jewellery, books, cakes and local honey, and even crafts made by young community members from Belgravia School.

"We have some amazingly talented and internationally renowned artists living right here in our community," says Jeanette Boman, who is organizing the event with Brenda Philp this year. "This is not your ordinary craft sale. You'll be surprised by the variety of beautiful things."

One of the joys of shopping at the Holiday Market is meeting the artists and learning about how they made their products and what inspired them. Those stories can then be shared with your gift recipients. Mark the date and come out to meet your neighbours and support our local artists!



**2022 Belgravia
Community League**

Holiday Market

***Discover the talent & creativity
in Belgravia ... Buy Local***

**When: Wednesday, December 7
5 pm – 8 pm**

Where: BCL Hall (115 St & 74 Ave)



Photo credit: Tricia Simon.
Image source: Government of Alberta

PROTECT OUR TREES FROM BLACK KNOT

About the disease – Black knot is a disease caused by the fungus *Apiosporina morbosa*. The fungus produces distinctive greenish brown to black swellings in the stems of plum and cherry trees. Black knot deforms branches and reduces the growth of trees. Heavily infected trees often become stunted and may eventually die from the disease. It spreads during periods of warm, wet weather with the spores dispersed by water, wind, birds and insects.

What the City is doing – Trees located on boulevards and in maintained parks susceptible to black knot are pruned by City arborists on a 4-year pruning cycle. This allows for an annual focus on a specific quadrant of the city. This winter, the southwest quadrant will be the focus for black knot pruning on City trees.

What you can do – Help maximize the City's pruning efforts by ensuring trees on private property are pruned for black knot between late fall to early spring. For pruning guidelines, visit: www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/black-knot

BCL CASINO 2022: NOTE OF THANKS

The BCL held its' 2022 Casino on November 7-8 thanks to the support and generosity of our volunteers. Some 35 BCL casino helpers – BCL members and neighbors including the U of A FarmHouse Fraternity – shared their time and talents. Funds raised are expected in Feb 2023 and will help maintaining our hall, facilities, events and programs over the next 2 years.

You can expect the next 'Casino Call' in late fall of 2024, for our next casino to be held in early 2025.

On behalf of the BCL, thanks once again for answering the call!

Reg Norby, 2022 BCL Casino Coordinator

You're Invited!
To a Christmas Concert
with Harmonia, an Edmonton ensemble

Please join us on November 23 at 7:30 pm.

St. George's Anglican Church
11733 — 87 Avenue

We'll play some Christmas favourites
and light classical pieces
and finish with a Christmas carols singalong.

Recent Happenings

40th ANNUAL PUMPKIN PARTY

October 30: BCL's 2022 Pumpkin Party was a smashing success. The great weather brought over 70 costumed fairies, dinosaurs, hot dogs and other delightful Wild Things flocking to the hall. Pumpkins were given out to all in costume, including parents. Mr. Pumpkin Head and his helpers kept the children busy with spooky activities such as the costume parade (see image on right), peanut toss and apple bobbing. A special performance of the Famous Childrens' Scary Halloween Puppet Show was provided by Nancy Hunt, Puppeteer. At the end of the day, over 105 freshly-carved Jack-o-lanterns found new homes.

Thanks to Reg, Jane, Keith and Caroline for keeping our 40-year old tradition alive!



Belgravia's Mr. Pumpkin Head (Reg Norby) faces off with a mighty Roman soldier

Meet Your Neighbour

GWEN MOLNAR

by Catherine Compston



Gwen Molnar is our next-door neighbour and she is a 96-years-young wonder. She has an uncanny ability to quote verse from memory; much of it written by her. Gwen has lived in Belgravia for 45 years since she and her husband George bought their house in 1975 for a mere \$30,000.

Edmonton-born Gwen McGregor was raised in Old Strathcona; her grandfather W.E. Ross opened the Ross block on Whyte Avenue in 1893. Gwen attended King Edward and Strathcona schools. The day she turned 18 in 1944, she enlisted in the Canadian navy as a WREN to help with the war effort. She was posted to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, where there were 6,000 men to 600 WRENS; needless to say Gwen and the other women were very popular!

After returning to Edmonton, Gwen registered at the U of A in Education. Shortly thereafter she met George Molnar, a young medical student. George had commented to his friend Peter Roberts, "I haven't met a girl I'd go out with twice" and Peter said, "I have the perfect girl for you." That girl was Gwen, and the rest is history.

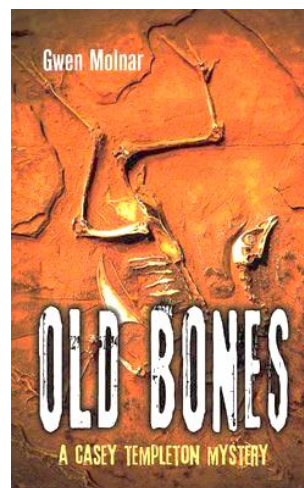
An interesting aside about George: he had been raised in Hungary and was fluent in German. As a young officer in the Canadian army, he was given the job of interrogating German prisoners during WWII. He was instrumental in translating the terms of surrender of the German army in the

Netherlands in May 1945. This was a pivotal event in the Netherlands, and the moment is captured in a painting and on the cover of a Dutch cookie tin from that time! It depicts George and the other officers at a table with the Nazi officers.

George and Gwen were married for 72 years until George's death in 2018. They had two children, Janie and Charlie, both born in Rochester, Minnesota, where George was on staff at the Mayo Clinic. Walter McKenzie, who joined the medical staff of the University of Alberta hospital, was also an alum of Mayo. He recruited George back to Edmonton and the UAH, where George was the Chairman of Medicine in the 1970s.

Gwen is a wordsmith extraordinaire, and has written twelve children's books. *At Home in Old Strathcona* (2014) shows us her remarkable memory once again. *Bygumbo* won the 2019 Alberta Book Publishing Awards' Book of the Year award in the children/youth category, and *Hazel's Rainbow Ride* (2013) is dedicated to her granddaughter Hazel – both of these books were illustrated by Edmonton artist Barbara Hartmann.

The accomplished Gwen has also been a printmaker, a painter, and in recent years has enjoyed manipulating photo images, turning them into abstract art. She writes two poems a day, reads prodigiously, walks in her pool, and keeps her iPad close by. Still in her Belgravia home, these days she hangs out with her granddaughter Hazel and Hazel's partner Rory. A visit with Gwen is a delight – you'll always learn something about Belgravia or Edmonton in her company.



Gwen's Molnar's 'Made in Belgravia' books can be purchased at Audreys Bookstore.

Feature: Lewis Cardinal Walk

KIHCIY ASKIY SACRED CEREMONIAL SITE

On Oct 2nd, St Paul United Church and Belgravia had the privilege of hosting a talk and guided walk by Lewis Cardinal. Cardinal was born in Sucker Creek Cree First Nation. He studied at the U of A, earning a PhD in Indigenous Education and later teaching in the Department. Politically active, he ran for municipal and federal office.



As an educator and communicator, Lewis Cardinal emphasizes creating links among Indigenous communities, and between their communities and non-Indigenous communities. He was assigned as Project Manager of the *kihciy askiy* ('Sacred Land' in Cree) location being developed in the North Saskatchewan River Valley near Fort Edmonton.

Cardinal described his vision of having a natural setting in the Capital region that would serve as a unifying cultural site for Indigenous peoples.

kihciy askiy will host spiritual ceremonies, cultural camps, talking circles and sweat lodges, and facilitate intergenerational learning in an appropriately designed outdoor learning space. A number of events and programming will also be made available to the general public and neighbouring communities to provide educational opportunities about Indigenous worldviews, histories, sciences and cultural teachings in the spirit of Reconciliation.

It was a beautiful fall day. After the talk, Cardinal led us on a walk along the Saskatchewan River to Whitemud Park. He gave us a tour of the site and ended the event with us all holding hands as he led us in prayer for peace.

Cardinal is keen to develop future events with St Paul's and the Belgravia Community. Currently under construction, *kihciy askiy* is scheduled to open in spring 2023. Learn more: https://www.edmonton.ca/projects_plans/parks_recreation/kihciy-askiy-development

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Feature: Into the Garden

IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY BEING GREEN

by Bonnie Walter

Winter has arrived with a vengeance. The Green and Gold Garden rests peacefully under the snow. The garlic is mulched. Root vegetables have been gratefully harvested and stored.

At the Green and Gold Garden we had a successful start-up year with our new cropping system and achieved acceptable production of most of our target crops and amazing success of some experimental new ones (Shark's Fin Melon!). Unfortunately, our potato crop experienced a failure and it was fortunate we planted so many extra this year. We had to cull a significant percentage of the potato crop due to greening – a serious issue that anyone who loves potatoes should heed.

Greening in potatoes is caused by exposure to light. Mr. Potato wants to make chlorophyll, as do all green plants. The chlorophyll makes potato skin look green. However, when a potato makes its chlorophyll it simultaneously makes solanine – a brave defense against insects which is also a toxin to humans. This year we planted our potato seed too shallow without considering the anticipated subsidence created when weather causes the lovingly heaped up soil of raised beds to subside. Potatoes grow horizontally! Not a problem if one hills them religiously. But we didn't, so we lost!

Next year we will fix this. Greening can also occur in your house. If you're storing potatoes, do it in a completely dark, dry, cool place like a closed

cardboard box in a basement closet. Or wrapped in your fridge if you only have a few spuds. Or a root cellar if you are lucky enough to have one.

Should I eat this potato if I just peel the green part off? Well... not really. The part that 'looks' unaffected by the greening is also a victim of the greening process to a lesser degree. While it might look OK it may/will taste bitter, and can cause nasty digestive issues (and even sleep problems). White (brown-skinned) potatoes have easily visible greening on the skin; red skinned varieties are trickier to spot, but will have dark areas that display green underneath if you peel that spot.

We have all eaten potatoes where we simply deleted the green bits and pretended they did not exist... but frankly, it is better not to. Compost the greenies.

Somebody asked, "Should we also fear green-topped carrots?" Fear not. The green area on that orange carrot root is simply 'sunburn'. The carrot makes chlorophyll which creates that green root look, but no other process is triggered, so it's fine to eat, if not as sweet and tasty as the orange part.

So, enjoy the winter, eat frugally and well, and get back to your roots. And many thanks to all the wonderful customer support we received at the Green and Gold Garden this growing season. Blessings for a peaceful, prosperous, healthy New Year!

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Contact Leslie:

Phone: 780-916-2465

Email: leslieatorderly@gmail.com

Instagram: [orderly.edm](https://www.instagram.com/orderly.edm)

Come Learn and Play with us at Belgravia Playschool!

Where: Belgravia Community League Building

We have a bright and sunny classroom with open space for gym activities and access to a full kitchen. We also play outdoors in the playground, surrounding bushes and the art park.

When: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays

Playschool is 8:30 - 11:30 with an optional lunch hour from 11:30 - 12:30.

Playschool is a monthly commitment - join any time!

What: Our teaching philosophy is founded on educating children's hearts and brains. The program is a balanced mix of the *Think Equal* curriculum (thinkequal.org), nature lessons and creative art.

Students will enjoy circle time (which includes: stories, songs, fingerplays and discussions), art projects and physical play.

We are a parent coop, and our teacher, Ms. Monika, is amazing! She has a Master in Education and is a certified student counsellor.

How to join: For more information and monthly registration, contact our registrar, Wendy: sham.wen@gmail.com, or our teacher, Monika: ps.monika.fouad@gmail.com



The new government grant and subsidy (if qualified) can be applied.

Hope to see you!

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Brain Games

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- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
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| Skating | Hanukkah | Firepit |
| Kwanzaa | Cozy | Candle |
| Solstice | Blanket | Dreidel |
| Santa | Fleece | Fireplace |
| Mittens | Christmas | |
| Shovel | Frosty | |
| Snowflake | | |



Woodblock by Utagawa Hiroshige (1863), public domain

J K A D G W V H X S D Q V C C
T D U S Y S Z C A H H F T F D
F B I S N Z J O Y N F O Y M Y
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