



# *thebelgravian*

Connecting neighbours. | December 2023

## **Belgravia Community League**

11540 73 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6G 0G1

### **Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 52202  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

### **Contact Us**

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

### **Visit us Online**

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

Next submission deadline: January 18, 2024

## **In this Issue**

---

Page 2	<a href="#">About our Newsletter</a>
Page 3	<a href="#">Board &amp; Committee Contacts</a>
Page 4	<a href="#">Get Involved</a>
Page 6	<a href="#">Programs</a>
Page 8	<a href="#">Meet Your Neighbours</a>
Page 10	<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>
Page 11	<a href="#">Calling all Young Storytellers</a>
Page 13	<a href="#">Feature: Braille Tone Music Society</a>
Page 14	<a href="#">Brain Games</a>

*This bi-monthly newsletter is published within Treaty 6 Territory and the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4. We acknowledge this land as the traditional territories of many First Nations such as the Nêhiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Diné), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot).*

## About our Newsletter

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

### Monthly Distribution

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

Read us online: [belgraviaedmonton.ca/newsletter](http://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](mailto:newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

### ADVERTISE WITH US

Ads can be submitted to:

[newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto: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. Mail to: Belgravia Community League,

P.O. Box 52202, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T5

E-transfer: [treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca) – include message: 'Newsletter Ad'.

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

Issue	Submit articles by	Delivery
February 2024	Jan 18	Jan 27/28
April 2024	Mar 21	Mar 30/31
June 2024	May 16	May 25/26
August 2024	July 18	July 27/28
October 2024	Sept 19	Sep 28/29
December 2024	Nov 21	Nov 30/Dec 1

#### Card size

8.5 cm x 6 cm

All businesses

BCL Member: \$25

Non-Member: \$50

#### 1/4 page

8.5 cm x 12 cm

Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor  
Park businesses only

BCL Member: \$50

Non-Member: \$75

#### 1/2 page

18 cm x 12 cm

Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor  
Park businesses only

BCL Member: \$75

Non-Member: \$100

## GOT CLUTTER?

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULT



**Alana Wylie**

Home Organizing  
Interior Decorating

780-655-3370

[awyliedesign@gmail.com](mailto:awyliedesign@gmail.com)

[www.thejoyofhome.ca](http://www.thejoyofhome.ca)

LET'S GET YOU  
ORGANIZED!



scan to learn more

# Board & Committee Contacts

BCL Board Members		
President	Michael Cohen	<a href="mailto:president@belgraviaedmonton.ca">president@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Vice President	Jonathan Sharek	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca">vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Past President	Cory Dawson	<a href="mailto:pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca">pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Secretary	Scott MacLean	<a href="mailto:secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca">secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Treasurer	Shirley Perry	<a href="mailto:treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca">treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Membership Director	Jane Taylor	<a href="mailto:membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca">membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Planning & Place Director	Devon Beggs	<a href="mailto:planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca">planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Communications Director	Lou Morin	<a href="mailto:communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca">communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Programs Director	Jeanette Boman	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Facilities Director	Felix Meir-Stephenson	<a href="mailto:facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca">facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Director-at-Large	Irene Andersson	<a href="mailto:abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca">abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Director-at-Large	Christina Lau Hoang	<a href="mailto:director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca">director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Director-at-Large	Barry Edgar	<a href="mailto:director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca">director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Communications Team		
Newsletter Editor	Lou Morin	<a href="mailto:newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca">newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Newsletter Distribution	Susanne Rowe	<a href="mailto:communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca">communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Website Administrator	Tim Janzen	<a href="mailto:webmaster@belgraviaedmonton.ca">webmaster@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Program Team		
Made in Belgravia Initiative	Jeanette Boman	<a href="mailto:mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca">mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Casino	Reg Norby	<a href="mailto:norby@shaw.ca">norby@shaw.ca</a>
Facilities Team		
Hall Manager	Shauna Lengyel	<a href="mailto:hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca">hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Rink Manager	Simon Gosgnach	<a href="mailto:rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca">rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Arts Park Team Leader	Kathy Goble	<a href="mailto:kkgoble@telus.net">kkgoble@telus.net</a>
Sustainability Coordinator	Imogen Sellman	<a href="mailto:sustainability@belgraviaedmonton.ca">sustainability@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Community Connections Team		
Neighbourhood Resource Coord.	Kate Russell	<a href="mailto:kate.russell@edmonton.ca">kate.russell@edmonton.ca</a>
Elementary Liaison	Irene Andersson	<a href="mailto:abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca">abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Traffic Committee Chair	Christine Taylor	<a href="mailto:traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca">traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	vacant	<a href="mailto:belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca">belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	<a href="mailto:belgraviawatch@gmail.com">belgraviawatch@gmail.com</a>

# 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 your community.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Belgravia Community League Membership benefits include:

- BCL Hall rental privileges, including Hall Wifi
- BCL member advertising rate in *the belgravian*
- 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
- Several offers at Orbis Sports
- University of Alberta technology training: [training@ualberta.ca](mailto:training@ualberta.ca)
- Posters, wall murals and other printing jobs at Campus Design & Print Solutions: [print@ualberta.ca](mailto:print@ualberta.ca)

Membership fees: BCL membership fees recently changed. Visit our website for fees and to buy or renew a membership online: [belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/](https://belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/)

## VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

The BCL is looking for volunteers for the following positions:

### BelMac kids' Soccer Coordinator

This a busy, exciting position is for someone passionate about children's soccer in our community. The coordinator works with parents and the Edmonton Minor Soccer Association to manage player registration, equipment, scheduling and other duties. Training will be provided by staff and a past BelMac coordinator.

### Lead Fundraiser, Rink Renewal

The BCL Rink Renewal Committee is looking for a volunteer to lead fundraising from government grants and Belgravia residents for our planned rink renewal. The volunteer will write grant proposals with technical input from other committee members and coordinate fundraising events. Depending on which option Belgravians choose, the rink renewal will cost between \$250,000 and \$700,000.

For more information, contact Michael: [president@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:president@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

# Get Involved

## OPEN HOUSE FOR THE BELGRAVIA OUTDOOR RINK RENEWAL

**What:** Drop-in Open House featuring the Belgravia Rink Renewal Concept

**When:** Monday, December 11, 2023, any time between 3 and 7 pm

**Where:** Upper floor, BCL Hall; use west side entrance between 73rd and 74th Avenues (just east of the school)

The Rink Renewal Project Team is developing a replacement for the aging outdoor rink that will facilitate both winter and summer recreation activities. Based on a community survey and the development of a business case, a strategy for renewal in the form of a “concrete surface with traditional boards” was approved by the BCL Board and the City last year. Using this strategy as directed by the Board, we have been refining the project concept over the past year. As currently envisioned, the renewal concept will require a significant community investment and have substantial benefits and impacts for Belgravia residents.

The project team and the BCL Board need your input to shape the next steps of this renewal process and ensure it aligns with community needs and interests.

On December 11, we’re holding a public engagement session at the BCL Hall to provide information on the Belgravia Rink Renewal Concept and get input from Belgravia residents. Event attendees will have the opportunity to view graphic renderings of the winter and summer versions of the proposed rink concept. The project team will also be there to provide information on the concept including its major features, benefits, costs, funding and challenges. Attendees will be invited to submit their input by filling out feedback forms.



# Programs

## PROGRAMS STARTING IN JANUARY 2024 AT THE BCL HALL

All fees listed below are for residents with BCL memberships:

Activity	Day/Time/Place	Course Fee	Registration & Contact
<b>Soapstone Carving</b> Teacher: Pat Galbraith	Monday 7–9 pm Upper Hall	10 classes (\$150) No Drop-in option	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Pilaga (Pilates/Yoga)</b> Teacher: Susan Middleton	Monday 8:30–9:30 am Upper Hall	10 classes (\$120) Drop-in \$15	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Girl Guides</b> Leader: Salix Bell	Monday 6:30–8:30 pm Lower Hall	Fee set by Girl Guides Canada	<a href="mailto:crzcampr@telus.net">crzcampr@telus.net</a>
<b>Boot Camp</b> Leader: Emma Klein	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30–8:30 am Lower Hall	Drop-in \$15	<a href="mailto:susan.andrew@shaw.ca">susan.andrew@shaw.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:jennifer.klein@ualberta.ca">jennifer.klein@ualberta.ca</a>
<b>Mat Yoga</b> Teacher: Elise Ure	Tuesday & Thursday 9:45–10:45 am Upper Hall	8 Tuesday classes (\$92; Drop-in \$15) 8 Thursday classes (\$92; Drop-in \$15)	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Fit for Life: Strength &amp; Stretch</b> Teacher: Elise Ure	Tuesday and/or Thursday 11 am–12 noon Upper Hall	8 Tuesday classes (\$92; Drop-in \$15) 8 Thursday classes (\$92; Drop-in \$15)	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Music with Baby</b> (Up to 24 months) Teacher: Nancy Hunt	Wednesday 9:30–10 am Lower Hall	Fee set by teacher	<a href="mailto:nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com">nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com</a>
<b>Music &amp; Movement</b> (Up to 5 years old) Teacher: Nancy Hunt	Wednesday 10:15–11 am Lower Hall	Fee set by teacher	<a href="mailto:nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com">nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com</a>
<b>Young Family Drop-in Playtimes</b> Contact: Shauna Lengyel	Tuesday 5:30–7:30 pm Wednesday 9:30–11 am Thursday 1:30–3:30 pm Lower hall	Only BCL Membership required	<a href="mailto:hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca">hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>

Activity	Day/Time/Place	Course Fee	Registration & Contact
<b>Young Family Drop-in Playtimes</b> Contact: Shauna Lengyel	Tuesday 5:30–7:30 pm Wednesday 9:30–11 am Thursday 1:30–3:30 pm Lower hall	Only BCL Membership required	<a href="mailto:hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca">hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Family Ukulele Class</b> Teacher: Nancy Hunt	Thursday 7–8 pm Lower Hall	Fee set by teacher	<a href="mailto:nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com">nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com</a>
<b>BCL Knitters</b>	Tuesday 7–9 pm Upper Hall (Community Living Room)		<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Belgravia Walking Club</b>	Wednesday 10 am Upper Hall	Open to all who love to walk with a neighborhood group	<a href="mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca">programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca</a>
<b>Spring Musical Theatre</b> (6–12 years) Teacher: Marion Brenner	Wednesdays 3:45–5:45 pm Upper Hall	Fee set by teacher	<a href="mailto:moxybstudio@gmail.com">moxybstudio@gmail.com</a>
<b>NIA Fitness Class</b> Teacher: Kirsten Bartel	Thursday 7–8 pm Upper Hall	Fee set by teacher	<a href="mailto:fleurishmovement@gmail.com">fleurishmovement@gmail.com</a>
<b>Edmonton Insight Meditation</b> Janet Smith	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month 8:30 am–12:30pm	Open to Belgravia residents; fee set by EMI	<a href="mailto:smithjanet166@gmail.com">smithjanet166@gmail.com</a>

DISCOVER THE JOY OF A BODY THAT MOVES FREELY AND WITHOUT THE ACHES AND PAINS WE COMMONLY ASSOCIATE WITH AGING

## BALANCE SOMATICS



### SOMATICS MOVEMENT CLASS

\$30 for a two-hour class

Saturday, December 2, 11 to 1 pm

Located in Belgravia Community Hall (Upper Hall) 11540 73 Ave NW, Edmonton.

To register send an email to [balancesomatics@gmail.com](mailto:balancesomatics@gmail.com). For more information on somatic movement, check out our website at [balancesomatics.com](http://balancesomatics.com).

# Meet Your Neighbours: This Year's Market Vendors

## 2023 BELGRAVIA HOLIDAY MARKET

Last year's Holiday Market was a resounding success! At this year's edition, shop local from a selection of new and returning Belgravia artisans.

**When:** Wednesday, December 6, 5–8 pm

**Where:** Upper and Lower Belgravia Hall

### 2023 Belgravia Holiday Market Participants

- Paul Bird (Handmade knives)
- Cathy Compston (Watercolour paintings)
- Heidi Cheung (Handmade cards, soaps & decorations)
- Christine Taylor & Olivia (Baking)
- Pat Galbraith (Watercolour cards, paintings, sculptures)
- JoAnne Hamilton (Knitted toques, mittens, shawls)
- Sonia Roopra (Knitting)
- Louise & Imogen Selman (Knitting, home decor, toiletries)
- Heather Kerr (Stained glass pieces)
- Katherine Koller & Ruby Swanson (Local authors)
- Sheila Laughton (Jewellery)
- Elaine Leslie, Graeme & Russell (Crafts by kids)
- Kerry & Eugene Maguire (Belgravia Honey)
- Juliet McMaster (Juvenilia Press publications)
- Jane de Caen (Pottery)
- Anita Nawrocki (Postage stamp art, bookmarks)
- Sue Bates (Chocolates)
- Daron Donahue (Wood working)
- Dawn Terry (Gemstones, scarves)
- Olivia Vimitz (Toques, mittens, baking, candies)
- Toni Wittenberg (Knitted Christmas Stockings)
- Bonnie Walter (Green & Gold Garden Rwandan handcrafts)
- Darlene Williams (Handwoven tea towels)
- Mia Eckersley (Plantings, bath bombs)
- Hazel Estabrooks & Alma Tilgmann (Sewing items)
- Dong Family (Bracelets)
- Audrey Hildebrand (Jewellery)
- Rekha Sharma (Jewellery, handmade cards)
- Slovia (Art)



## Meet Your Neighbours: This Year's Market Vendors

---



*A teaser of the locally made gifts you'll find at the 2023 Belgravia Holiday Market*



# Upcoming Events

## FALL 2023 MADE IN BELGRAVIA SESSIONS



### Event: Catio talk by Jessica Haines

**When:** Wed, November 29, 7 pm

**Where:** Upper BCL Hall

Domestic cats make great companions and family pets, but they are also predators that have significant impacts on wildlife where they are allowed to roam freely. Free-roaming cats also face risks such as urban wildlife and busy roadways. Keeping cats indoors is one solution to keep them (and wildlife) safe, but this can deprive cats of enrichment activities. Learn how *cattios* – enclosures designed specifically for cats to safely access the outdoors – can help cats lead enriching lives while remaining safely indoors.

Please register by November 28:

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

### Event: Ephemera talk by Wei Yew

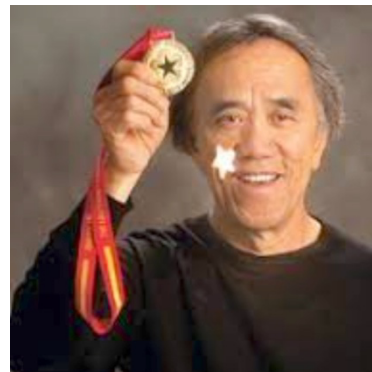
**When:** Friday, December 8, 7 pm

**Where:** Upper BCL Hall (parking along 73 & 74 Avenues)

In terms of art, Ephemera are creations intended for short-term purposes. This can include greeting cards for a wide range of occasions. Join Belgravian Wei Yew, a talented graphic designer, for an enjoyable evening exploring the creation of unique cards for the special people in your life. Wei's skills, love of numerology and sense of fun allow him to challenge even Hallmark and Carlton in the creativity department! Popcorn and refreshments will be available for a small donation at the event.

Please register by December 6:

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



# Calling all Young Storytellers

## BELGRAVIA TREE STORIES

A feature by local author Katherine Koller in the August 2023 issue of *the belgravian* planted the seeds for our ongoing tree column. In her article, Katherine invited Belgravians of all ages to write about their favourite neighbourhood trees. Since then, we've published engaging tree tales by several other residents.

### Calling all budding storytellers

Belgravia is home to a forest of creative, young people – from toddlers to teenagers. If you're interested in writing about, sketching or photographing a special Belgravia tree, we'd love to feature your stories in the newsletter!

**Length of written pieces:** stories can range in length from one sentence up to 350 words

**Image files:** images should be at least 500 KB

**How to submit:** email your name and creations to [newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca)



## Drop in Playtime ...

**in the Lower BCL Hall**

**Tuesdays (starts Nov 14) 5:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Wednesdays (starts Nov 15) 9:30 - 11 am**

**Thursdays (starts Nov 16) 1:30 - 3:30 pm**

- Kids play!
- Parents supervise their kids & visit with other parents
- Snacks and Refreshments planned by parents
- A benefit of your Family BCL Membership

For more Information Contact [programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca](mailto:programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca)

### Time of my life

Re "Flying solo: Evolving the thinking on women who age alone" (Oct. 7): On retirement, I was able to buy my own home and pursue my interests, leaving the stress of work behind.

Volunteering, learning computer skills, attending photography and writing groups, breeding canaries and enjoying the company of friends have kept me busy over the years. Loneliness has been foreign to me.

I am 94. Over the years, as my physical abilities have diminished, there are things I have had to give up, such as driving. But the kindness and caring of friends and neighbours have been special and filled any voids there may have been.

I'm single and loving it!

**Wendy Davis** Edmonton

In case you missed long-time Belgravian Wendy Davis' inspiring words published in The Globe and Mail on October 14, 2023, we've kept a clipping!

## Upcoming Events

### ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

We would love to have you join us!

#### Sunday December 10

10:30 a.m. family pageant

#### Saturday December 16 6 - 8 p.m.

Christmas Music, Storytelling for Kids and the play 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'.

An Advent Christmas Evening for all ages. complete with hot chocolate and treats!

*"While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads . . ."*

Please RSVP to the office at St. Paul's 780-437-7672 or [office@stpaulsunited.org](mailto:office@stpaulsunited.org)

#### Thursday December 21

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

#### December 24

10:30 a.m. Sunday morning service

#### Christmas Eve Services, December 24

4 p.m. for young children and their families


8 p.m. candlelit worship

Our services will be livestreamed and posted to

<https://www.youtube.com/@StpaulsUCYEG/streams>



Thursdays, October - April, we offer **Day 5** at 7:30 p.m. Inspiring, interesting!

When you see  on the sandwich board, call the church for the Zoom link; otherwise, come on in!

11526 - 76 Avenue NW (780) 436-1555 [www.stpaulsunited.org](http://www.stpaulsunited.org)



Catch the Braille Tone Music Society's "Winter Wind Up" concert on Saturday, December 9 at 11 am at St. Paul's United Church. Admission is suggested at \$10 or by donation.

See the article on the next page.

## Feature: Braille Tone Music Society

---

The Braille Tone Music Society (BTMS) is happy to call Belgravia our home. We are a Registered Charity that provides musical enrichment for persons with disabilities in the Edmonton area. Our mission is to empower individuals of varying abilities to pursue professional instruction in music through our choirs and lesson subsidies, without significant cost to these individuals, in an inclusive and fun atmosphere. The organization originally offered services geared towards persons with visual impairments (thus the name) but has since expanded to serve persons with all disabilities. St. Paul's United Church serves as our musical home. Every Saturday, all the Braille Tone choirs rehearse in the beautifully renovated basement recreational space. The choirs also hold concerts at St. Paul's throughout the year.

Originally established in 1988, the organization came into being through the work of Ron Pitmen and Keivin Wallace with the Edmonton Dinner Optimist Club. With the Club's funding, a communications group for persons with disabilities was started, promoting confidence in public speaking, and making new friends in a fun and social atmosphere. Robert Collings and Wyn McAra were also instrumental in the creation and continuity of the organization.

In 1996, through collaboration with Bill Owen and Ron Sales, the organization added a choir under the direction of Scott Leithead, sharing much of its membership with the public speaking group. As the choir grew and improved, so did its helpers, expanding from a professional conductor and accompanist to including section leaders from youth and adult choirs in the community, working together with our choristers to sing increasingly complicated and enriching music. Also around this time, the Braille Tone Music Society partnered with local music instructors and schools to provide private music lessons to adults and children with disabilities. Students and teachers continue to be matched based on their instrument, age, and level of experience, and students showcase their talents at two recitals a year.

Through the dedicated work of our conductor, accompanist, section leaders, and choristers, the Braille Tone choir performs up to six-part harmony in a variety of musical genres and languages. The choir is under the direction of Susan Farrell, who is also Director of Music at St. Paul's United Church. Our membership consists of adults with varying disabilities, musical training, and experience. It is a non-auditioned choir; except to determine what section would be most appropriate for a new singer. There is no cost to the singers in joining the choir. The Braille Tone Music Society of Canada and its many generous sponsors fund the choir completely.

The Semitones Children's & Youth Choir, for children and youth aged 8 to 16, aims to have fun while learning music and movement basics and is inclusive of all ability levels. The group also strives to integrate children of all abilities and build leadership, acceptance and confidence, and promote expression. The Uketones Ukulele Choir is our organization's newest instrument-based choir for all ages and experience levels, teaching ukulele basics, from string names to chord structures to strumming patterns, by playing classic singalongs together. Our song repertoire is highly influenced by the interests of our members. We also touch on the percussive nature of the ukulele by adding percussion elements to our songs.

Our choirs all rehearse at St. Paul's United Church (11526 76 Ave) every Saturday, starting with The Braille Tones at 10:30 am, Semitones at 12 pm, and Uketones at 1 pm. We welcome new members throughout the year! Please contact us at [info@btms.ca](mailto:info@btms.ca) if you are interested in sitting in on a rehearsal.

We also ask members of the community to join the Braille Tone Music Society for our "Winter Wind Up" concert on Saturday, December 9 at 11 am at St. Paul's. Admission is suggested at \$10 or by donation. This concert will feature performances by the Braille Tones, the Semitones, the Uketones, and our music students. We would love to see you there!

