



THE Belgravian

September 2024

BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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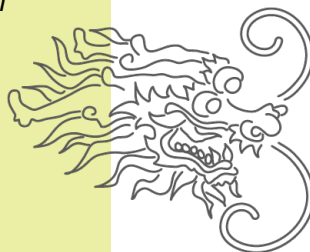
Website: belgraviaedmonton.ca
Facebook: [belgraviaedmonton](https://www.facebook.com/belgraviaedmonton)
Twitter: [@belgraviaYEG](https://twitter.com/belgraviaYEG)

Next submission deadline: November 21

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).

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Belgravia
Community League
Celebrating 70 years of a rich tapestry of cultures

About Our Newsletter

Published by the Belgravia Community League (BCL), *The Belgravian* connects you with community news, programs, events and other developments in and around the Belgravia area. We deliver ~1,100 copies to homes in Belgravia. Read our stories online: belgraviaedmonton.ca/newsletter

SEND US YOUR STORIES

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

ADVERTISE WITH US

To submit an ad: newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

We accept ads in PDF, JPG, PNG and TIF formats.

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 – include message: ‘Newsletter Ad’

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

Issue	Submit by	Delivery
February	Jan 18	Jan 27/28
April	Mar 21	Mar 30/31
June	May 16	May 25/26
August	July 18	July 27/28
October	Sept 12	Sep 21/22
December	Nov 21	Nov 30/Dec 1

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

PIANO – THEORY – VOICE LESSONS

All ages, all levels. Classical, pop. B. Mus. & ARCT in Piano Performance. Member of ARMTA. Piano examiner & music festival adjudicator.

Instrumental and vocal coaching for exams, recitals, festivals, auditions, recordings. Music for weddings, funerals, private functions. Accompanist for Chanteuses, festival Singers, and Belgravia School choir.

Contact: Linda Steinbring

Email: lindasteingbring3@gmail.com

Phone: 780-435-4657

Board & Committee Contacts

BCL Board Members		
President	Michael Cohen	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca
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Traffic Committee Chair	Robert Bhatia	traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	Mike Blennerhassett	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Belgravia Watch	Richard Law	belgraviawatch@gmail.com

Get Involved

Belgravia Community League (BCL) owns and operates the community hall and rink, built the playgrounds by Belgravia School, and developed and maintains the Arts Park – all on land leased from the City of Edmonton. For over 70 years, BCL has provided engaging programs and activities, and represented our neighbourhood interests to City Council on transportation, development and other issues. Support your community by buying a membership and volunteering. Learn about member benefits and purchase a membership at: belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/

JOIN THE TEAM

Board President

With a board filled with enthusiastic and experienced directors, it's a great time to join! The Board President position is flexible, with many duties shared with the vice president and past president.

Sustainability Coordinator

The BCL has reduced our environmental footprint in various ways, including the solar panels and improved energy efficiency of our hall. We are looking for a volunteer to help us continue these efforts.

Special events organizers

We'd love to have more people join our special events team, helping to plan events such as the AGM and Community League Day event, Halloween and Family Day parties, Big Bin and Clean-Up, and Friday nights at the Hall. Ideas for new events are also welcome!

For more information on the above positions, contact Michael: president@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Piano & Singing Teaching Artist

welcomes students in a warm, encouraging home studio environment



PIANO - exam students, beginner -advanced, theory lessons also offered.

-all ages (including adults) keen to learn for relaxation and enjoyment.

-Exposure to all styles including classical, blues, jazz, pop.

-Learn to play in ensemble (two grand pianos!)

SING - vocal coaching for audition/exam prep
ear training, sight singing coaching.

Healthy classical approach to singing musical theatre, classical and jazz.

EARLY CHILDHOOD - tried & true Eastern European methods, learning through rhyme, movement and games, solid ear training.

Semi-private classes are available (max. 2)

www.edmontonpianoteacher.com text /phone 587-983-0292 to arrange an intro. Session.

BELGRAVIA

The executive of the Square Dancing Club announces that dances will be held in the community hall every second Monday, beginning next Monday. Club members may bring square dancing friends as guests.

The Archery group will not meet until the weather turns warmer.

An evening program dubbed "Hi-Lites" will be presented in Belgravia School on Friday, March 23. Following the pro-crafts will be on view in the community hall. The committee in charge are: Mrs. J. Patrick, Mrs. Cliff Preece, Mrs. Bob Scott, Don Ross and Bob Layton. The Ladies' Auxiliary will serve refreshments in the hall.

Leaders of the boys' gym classes state that fathers of the boys, or any interested men, are invited to the Tuesday evening classes to assist with supervision.

Community programs have brought neighbours together since 1954.

Edmonton Journal, Saturday, February 25, 1956

Get Involved

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER GARDENERS

by Kathy Goble, Belgravia Arts Park volunteer coordinator

Thank you to the volunteer gardeners who helped maintain the Belgravia Art Park this summer. This fun, hard-working team met every 2nd Tuesday from May to September, putting in over 100 hours taking care of the Labyrinth, Native Plant Planting Bed and Fruit Tree Bed.

Sending a big thank you also to the gardeners around the community who maintain the pocket parks, boulevards, traffic circle, and other areas. Our community streets and spaces are looking SO good because of your efforts.

LOCAL FRUIT RESCUE OPERATION!

by Irene Andersson, Abundant Belgravia coordinator

Do you have apples or other fruit/veggies that you are unable to pick or use and would be willing to let someone else come pick? Are you willing to help someone pick, and get to keep some of it if you wish?

Harvest could be shared according to both parties' desires, but $\frac{2}{3}$ to the picker and $\frac{1}{3}$ to the fruit owner is suggested.

To sign up, contact:
abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Include the following information in your email:

- Name
- Address
- Specify Owner or Picker
- Type of fruit offered/wanted

With the hope that less fruit goes to waste, we will then connect pickers and owners.

VISITOR

for KG

It's late when a neighbour
knocks on my door,
evening on the brink of yielding
to night –

I expect a fall, a fever,
a heart failing to keep pace.

My neighbour holds
a mushroom in her hand.
A gray bolete, freshly picked
in a yard next to the house
I find too gloomy and she
quietly elegant.

Delight-powered grin
even as she apologizes for the hour.
The need to share such a find
stronger than any unwritten rule.

Anna Mioduchowska

**CALLING ON BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY
LEAGUE ADULT MEMBERS (18+)**

BCL CASINO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**40+ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR OUR UPCOMING**

2024 BCL CASINO

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AND
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

AT THE **GRAND VILLA CASINO** (10224 -104 AVENUE)

IN SUPPORT OF BCL PROGRAMS & FACILITIES

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY / “ON THE JOB” TRAINING

VARIOUS DAY & NIGHT SHIFTS / ONLY ONE SHIFT EXPECTED

POSITIONS INCLUDE: BANKER / CASHIER / CHIP RUNNER / COUNT ROOM (“C” & “F”)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS / BRING-A-NEIGHBOR / MEAL & TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

IT’S A FUN, FASCINATING, FACILITATING, AND FUNDING EXPERIENCE!

Please “Sign-up” by contacting Reg Norby, Casino Coordinator by email norby@shaw.ca or by phone [780-436-0590](tel:780-436-0590). Indicate your phone number & email and the shift or shifts that you can volunteer for:

Saturday, November 30:

Shift A: 1–9 pm / **Shift B:** 8 pm–4 am / **Shift C:** 11 pm–3:30 am

Sunday, December 1:

Shift D: 1–9 pm / **Shift E:** 8 pm–4 am / **Shift F:** 11 pm–3:30 am

The Casino Shift Schedule will be set up in early November and you will be contacted as to your (day or night) shift(s), assigned position/duties/details, and transportation arrangements.

For more information, contact Reg Norby: norby@shaw.ca

Thank-you for volunteering. Your support is appreciated!

Helping Others in our Community

PEOPLE IN NEED

In recent years, we've seen a sharp rise in the number of people needing support, compassion and assistance. Here in Belgravia, people have started to shelter in public spaces.

All human beings, no matter their age, where they live, their culture or socioeconomic status, have the right to have their basic needs fulfilled. If you're looking to help, The Mustard Seed provides ways to give so you can make an impact on homelessness and poverty – from the donation of items or funds to sponsoring a thanksgiving meal.

Here are some of the ways you can help:

theseed.ca/ways-to-give/

If you see people experiencing homelessness, you can call one of these City services for help:

311: City of Edmonton Services – For non-emergency concerns about homelessness on public land like tents, shelters or discarded needles. You can also download the 311 App or use the 311 Online Request Form at:

edmonton.ca/programs_services/311-city-services

911: EPS emergency line – For someone in serious distress or other emergencies, like an unconscious or unresponsive person in public, call 911 immediately. Your call will be directed call to Police, Fire or Ambulance services.

780-423-4567 or #377: EPS services – For non-emergency law enforcement concerns like drug activity.

211 + press #3: 24/7 Crisis Diversion – For non-emergency City supports. If you see a person regularly sleeping in public areas or experiencing mental distress or other health issues, the City can send an outreach team to assist.

ANNUAL CAMPUS FOOD BANK DRIVE

The University of Alberta Campus Food Bank (CFB) is managing a 600% increase in demand in less than 5 years. They need our help more than ever. The CFB's annual food drive, Trick or trEAT, is happening on Saturday, October 26. Starting at noon that day, friendly volunteers will be going door-to-door in Belgravia and surrounding communities.

If you are able, please leave food donations on your porch by noon on Oct 26 for CFB volunteers to collect. Thank you for helping hungry students focus on their studies!

See the list of most needed items:

campusfoodbank.com/trick-or-treat



This Land
Concert to Celebrate Stewardship

Admission By Donation
Proceeds to benefit the ministry of St. George's Anglican Church

Featured Artists: Andrew Bortz (Bass & Pianist)
John Brough (Tenor & Pianist)
Marek Orszulik (Classical Guitarist)
Nola Shantz (Soprano & Pianist)

Venue: St. George's Anglican Church
11733 87 Ave NW,
Edmonton, AB T6G 0Y4

Date & Time: Saturday, October 5, 2024
7:00 PM

Programs

See full descriptions of select courses on page 10. Course details might change over the season. For the latest information, visit belgraviaedmonton.ca/programs/

Activity	Date, Time & Place	Course Fee (members)	Registration & Contact
Pilaga Teacher: Susan Middleton	Mondays: Sept 23– Dec 9 8:30–9:30am Upper Hall	BCL /Non-BCL rates \$150/\$170; Drop in \$20/\$25	pilatestoday@yahoo.ca
Soapstone Carving Club	Mondays: Sept 23– Dec 2 7–9pm Upper Hall	Fee determined by group	lorne@wensel.ca
Girl Guides Leader: Christine Schneider	Mondays: Sept 16– May 26 6:30–8:30pm Lower Hall	Fee set by Girl Guides Canada	discoveringthefun@gmail.com
Boot Camp Leader: Emma Klein	Tuesdays: 7–8 am Thursdays: 6:30– 7:30 am Outdoors by lower playground or Lower Hall	Drop-in \$15	susan.andrew@shaw.ca
Fall Musical Theatre Director: Marion Brenner	Wednesdays: Sept 11–Nov 30 3:45–5:45 pm Upper Hall	Fee set by Director	moxybtheatre@gmail.com
Matt Yoga Teacher: Elise Ure	Tuesdays: Sept 17– Oct 29 9:45–10:45 am Upper Hall Thursdays: Sept 19– Oct 31 9:45–10:45 am Upper Hall	Tuesdays BCL /Non-BCL rates: \$85/\$95 Drop in: \$15/\$20 Thursdays BCL /Non-BCL rates: \$150/\$170 Drop in: \$20/\$25	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Fit for Life: Strength & Stretch Teacher: Elise Ure	Tuesdays: Sept 17– Oct 29 11 am–Noon Lower Hall Thursdays: Sept 19– Oct 31 11 am–Noon Lower Hall	Tuesdays BCL /Non-BCL rates: \$85/\$95 Drop in: \$15/\$20 Thursdays BCL /Non-BCL rates: \$150/\$170 Drop in: \$20/\$25	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Activity	Date, Time & Place	Course Fee (members)	Registration & Contact
Cook, Eat, Thrive Cooking Classes Teacher: Monika Fouad	Tuesdays: Oct 15– Dec 17, 6–8 pm Upper Hall Wednesdays: Oct 16–Dec 18 10:30 am–12:30 pm Upper Hall	Fee set by teacher	monika.fouad@gmail.com plantpoweredhealth.ca
Drop-in Baby & Toddler Playtime Contact: Shauna Lengyel	Wednesdays: 10– 11:30 am Lower hall	BCL/Associate Membership	hallmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca
BCL Knitters	Tuesdays: 7–9 pm Upper Hall (CLR)	BCL/Associate Membership	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Music & Movement Teacher: Nancy Hunt	Wednesdays: Sept 18–Dec 4 (9 in total) 10:15–11 am Upper Hall	Fee set by teacher	nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com
Belgravia Walking Club Leader: Cam McGregor	Wednesdays Meet at 10 am, Upper Hall	Open to all who are interested in a neighbourhood walking group	cam.mcgregor@shaw.ca
NIA Fitness Teacher: Kirsten Bartel	Thursdays (Oct 31– Dec 19) 7–8:00pm Upper Hall	BCL/Non-BCL rates: \$120/\$130 Drop in: \$15/\$20	fleurishmovement@gmail.com
Friday Night Movies	Fridays, 6:30–8 pm Sept 13, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13, Jan 10 See list of movies on p. 10 Upper Hall	Drop in. Parents or guardians to stay with kids 12 and under. Bring toonies for popcorn & juice.	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca
Zumba Teacher: Allison Moore	Saturdays: Oct 4– Nov 22 9:30–10:30 am Lower Hall	Free drop in	moore4movement@gmail.com
Edmonton Insight Meditation (EMI) Contact: Janet Smith	3rd Saturday of every month 8:30 am–12:30 pm Upper Hall	Open to Belgravia residents; fee set by EMI	smithjanet166@gmail.com
Mini Ukulele for Kids (3-5 yrs) Ukulele Sing & Strum (6-12 yrs) Teacher: Nancy Hunt	Every other Sunday: Sept 15–Dec 15 Mini Ukulele: 10:30– 11:00 am (parent present for class) Sing & Strum: 11–11:45 am Upper Hall	Fee set by teacher	nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com

Programs

by Jeanette Boman, Programs Director

There's lots going on at the BCL hall this fall! Here are full descriptions of some of the courses listed on pages 8–9.

There's **Mini Ukulele** for 3- to 5-year-olds and their parents as well as a **Sing & Strum** class for 6- to 12-year-olds, where you will learn some SPOOKY Halloween songs and songs for the Holidays. Best of all, Nancy makes learning to play the ukulele a lot of fun!

If you haven't tried a **Zumba** class yet, now is your chance! Get a Latin-inspired-music-body-moving start to your Saturday mornings with Allison Moore this fall. Consider the following testimonial: "Over the course of Allison's Zumba classes there has been love, support, laughter, sweat, and most importantly personal growth. We have learned to move our bodies in ways that make us feel confident, beautiful, and strong. We have learned to feel the music, to listen to our needs, and to carve out previous time for ourselves. Behind it all is Allison's amazing force."

Nia® is an upbeat dance based, mind-body movement practice for people of any fitness levels to improve flexibility, mobility, strength and stability. Kirsten Bartel choreographs each class to diverse music that helps you follow a blend of 52 moves and 9 movement forms. While typically done barefoot, you are welcome to wear soft-soled indoor shoes if you have foot or knee issues. Bring a yoga mat for more comfort when moving on to the floor for cool-down.

Pilagia is a combination of Yoga and Pilates, giving you the best of both worlds. Susan Middleton skilfully guides you through variations in poses to make them easier or more challenging for every fitness level. The focus is on mindful movement and of course to have fun and a good way to start your week with a Monday morning class.

Early Tuesday and Thursday morning enthusiasts will love working out with Emma Klein during her Boot Camp class. And for those who have time later on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Elise Ure has facilitated wonderful **Matt Yoga** and Stretch & Strength classes since our renewed hall opened in 2016. Each of these are worth dropping in for and seeing if they are the one for you to keep you active, flexible and mobile.

Monika Fouad's Plant Powered Cooking course, **Cook, Eat, Thrive!** has the potential to transform your health as you learn to cook delicious, whole-food, plant-based meals that are good not only for you but the planet too. Monika brings all the ingredients for each class which you help prepare and eat at the end of class... with leftovers to take home. Follow up support and coaching are also offered as you develop and practice your new cooking skills. Class limited to 8 participants.

FLU AND/OR COVID VACCINE CLINIC

When: Saturday, October 19, 5–7 pm

Where: Lower Hall

Pharmasave Westmount is holding its 4th annual BCL immunization clinic for our community. The COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are administered as separate vaccines, but you can choose to receive both immunizations at the same appointment. Watch for information on how to register.

Upcoming Events

Save the dates for these fall happenings at the hall! Look for details on our website.

BEV ROSS SOUND BATH: RELEASE, RELAX & RESTORE

When: Wednesday, October 23, 7–9 pm

Where: Upper Hall

A Made in Belgravia initiative, join Belgravia resident and therapeutic sound musician, Bev Ross, as she presents “Sound Bath” a deliberate use of harp, bowls, flute, drums, gong, chimes and voice to guide you through a meditative experience. Register through mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN HALL

When: Sunday, October 27, 2–4:30 pm

Where: Lower Hall

Young Belgravians and their families are invited to the BCL’s 2nd Halloween Haunted Hall event. The highlight will be a spooky-friendly adventure maze in the Lower Hall and a Skull Making Workshop with Barry Edgar in the Upper Hall. Costumes are optional! Hot chocolate, homemade cookies and treat bags too. BCL Memberships will be available for those who have not yet renewed.

PLANT-BASED COOKING CLASS & POTLUCK DINNER

When: Sunday, November 17, 5–7 pm

Where: Upper Hall

Learn some secrets about cooking with tofu in the demonstration before this first potluck of four scheduled over the coming year. Bring your favourite vegetarian dish for the potluck meal and recipe to share with others. Register through mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca

HOLIDAY MARKET

When: Wednesday, December 11

Where: Upper & Lower Hall

Our well-loved Holiday Market is around the corner. Choose from an impressive collection of products by local creators. See the upcoming December issue of The Belgravian for the list of vendors. Please contact Brenda Philp by October 18, 2024, to reserve a table to sell your creations: artdog@shaw.ca

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES

When: Monthly Fridays at 6:30 pm

Where: Upper Hall

Pyjama-friendly event! Bring your pillows and a couple of loonies for popcorn and juice boxes.

- October 18, 2024 – Elemental
- November 15, 2024 – The Bad Guys
- December 13, 2024 – The Grinch
- January 10, 2024 – Mary Poppins Sing-Along!

JOIN ME FOR CRIB

If you’re interested in joining a group of local crib enthusiasts in my accessible home, contact me!

Where: Belgravia II condo, 11650 79 Ave

When: Day & Time to be determined

Call: Sharon at 780-919-0891

Singing Lessons

Stroke & Voice Therapy

Provided by **Merrill Tanner**

BMus & MMus in Voice Performance

Registered Speech-Language Pathologist

(Recently retired from Glenrose, R.SLP, PhD)

merrillt@ualberta.ca 780-436-6553

BCL Then & Now: Milestones

1906	Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues established
1954	Belgravia Community League formed, Stewart R. Sinclair as 1st president
1955	First Belgravia Community Centre & rink built (\$20,000 project)
1956	Belgravia School opens
1956	Playschool program begins
1950s	BCL builds new playgrounds
1978	"Mt. Belgravia" built as BCL initiative with the City of Edmonton (COE)
1970s	Holiday Gift shows begin in the Hall
1982	First annual Pumpkin Party
1990s	Extensive involvement in LRT / 114 St design & planning
1995	BCL petitions COE to close Keillor Road to vehicular traffic
2006	Belgravia Arts Park opens, initiated by BCL in 1999 with COE & Edmonton Arts Council
2016	Renewed BCL "Hall for All" (\$1.7 million project) opens after 3 years of planning, fundraising, designing and building
2018	New commercial seating area initiated by BCL and built by COE to replace a former parking lot on 76 th Ave & 115 th St
2020	BCL sponsors Covid-safe Easter Egg Hunt and Tour de Belgravia
2021	First annual Big Bin and Swap event
2021-23	Concerts in the Arts Park series
2023	Drop-in playtimes and Friday Nights at the Hall begin for families
2023	Rink Renewal Project begins
2024	BCL turns 70!

"My wife Susan and I have raised our family in Belgravia, and we've loved it here from the very start. It's been a great experience to work on behalf of Belgravia, and with so many wonderful neighbours, as a member of the BCL board."

Michael Cohen, Board President, 2017–present

Thanks to the generosity and dedication of the many volunteers who have contributed to the BCL over the past 70 years, Belgravians benefit from:

Facilities – including the hall, rink, upper and lower playgrounds, 'Mt Belgravia, and Arts Park.

Programs – at the hall, in the rink and surrounding park that help build the sense of community; this includes having an out-of-school care program and play school program for many years.

Special events – throughout the year like the annual Community League Day BBQ, Halloween Party, Holiday Market, Family Day Celebration and Big Bin events.

Hall space – for meetings, birthday parties, anniversaries, graduations, weddings and memorials.

Community-level organization – representing Belgravia interests to the City around planning & development needs like neighbourhood densification, transportation issues and protecting mature tree stands.

Community news and stories – through *The Belgravian* print newsletter and member email updates

BCL Then & Now: Traffic Stories

LOOKING BACK: ONE CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF BELGRAVIA

My tenure as a director of the BCL covered the 1980s and 1990s. It was a period when the community faced major transportation issues including Keillor Road, 114th Street construction, and the design of South LRT. The three issues had long loomed over the community.

Keillor Road had been a continuing controversy since the mid 1960s when traffic from southwest Edmonton sought to shortcut through Belgravia to avoid the traffic circle at Belgravia Road and 114th Street. The City of Edmonton was reluctant to deal with Keillor until improvements could be made to 114th Street to accommodate the Keillor Road traffic. However, the initial 114th Street plan proposed by the City was unacceptable to both Belgravia and McKernan. The subsequent actions of both communities demonstrated how a community acting together had the capacity and resilience to defend its interests while finding solutions to meet the needs of the city at large.

The 114th Street Coalition was formed to take the City to Court to demand that community interests be respected. The courts agreed with us and the City approved a community-led design process to mitigate the impact of 114th Street traffic. In a significant departure from the normal process, the community was allowed to select and retain its own consulting expertise to design the boulevard landscaping and deal with associated impacts.

The South LRT presented a new set of impacts on the community, which did not view the LRT as a

benefit. The community preferred initially that it run underground to a point south of Belgravia Road. The City was not prepared to do so for many reasons, the most significant being that they wanted to bring the LRT to the surface at the first opportunity to create a precedent for future LRT expansion. For a second time, the communities of Belgravia and McKernan were determined to be a part of the design process for such a major intrusion in the community. The City allowed the two communities to decide whether to have a station or not. Together with McKernan School representatives, they created a committee to explore the benefits and negatives of a station. Based on its findings, the committee recommended building a station, subject to a minimum 66% community member vote.

One of the outcomes of deciding to have a station was the need to have an Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) to guide any development impacting the communities. As in the case of the 114th Street design and construction and the design of the South LRT, the City delegated the work of the Plan preparation to the community. One of the most significant outcomes of the BelMac ARP was the concept of what became known as the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay. While we did not contemplate that the MNO would be applied in other communities in the city, we did want to be able to influence the design of new structures to ensure that our values were respected.

Over the years, Belgravia has benefited from its many residents with remarkable skills who have worked to protect the interests of the community. Belgravia lies on the travel desire line between residential areas to the southwest and destinations of the University and downtown Edmonton, with the consequence of having to accommodate major transportation facilities. Yet we still managed to maintain Belgravia as a great place to live.

Don Grumble, Past President, BCL

DID YOU KNOW?

All BCL memberships expire on August 31st. You can renew your annual membership online or at our 70th anniversary celebration and AGM to held on Saturday, Sept 28.

See p. 16 for event details.

BCL Then & Now: Traffic Stories

LOOKING FORWARD

Since assuming the role of Traffic Coordinator for the BCL a few months ago, Robert Bhatia has taken a systematic approach to addressing the community's traffic issues. He began with discussions with the president of the BCL and the previous traffic coordinator, as well as several residents. He then reviewed all the previous notes and documentation he could find and compiled an inventory of issues that have been identified and solutions that have been proposed.

Robert re-engaged BCL's Traffic Committee (including Don Grimble) and sought out the appropriate city staff to approach on the issues. A meeting is scheduled for later this month.

"My priority with the City is to establish a foundation of a respectful relationship and then help City staff to really understand the shortcutting issue and its impact on the community. From there, we can talk about measures to reduce shortcutting and to mitigate its effects. I will also be raising other issues as the opportunity arises."

Robert doesn't expect miracles, but he understands the impact of traffic issues on residents' quality of life and is committed to helping to address them.

If you have questions about traffic in Belgravia, please contact Robert Bhatia at: traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Annual Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 6

- 2 p.m. Belgravia Dog Park,
Saskatchewan Drive & 71st Avenue
- 2:45 p.m. Whitemud Equine Centre

Blessings by:

St. George's Anglican Church
Celebrating St. Francis of Assisi

All Creatures Welcome –
Great and Small



Feature: You Can't Pick Your Neighbours

by Christine Tsai Taylor

When we bought our home in Belgravia, a house inspector poked around, flew a drone over the roof, and stuck a scope in our sewer. We didn't think to check the neighbours. Now we're saddled with a 30-year mortgage on a house next to what can only be described as a neighbour situation.

First of all, he's up at 5 am every day. No matter how early we wake up, the drama starts before we've finished our first cup of locally roasted organic French press coffee. With no regard for property lines or privacy, our neighbour even removes the snow from our sidewalk. He cleans the path to our house sometimes, too.

That first winter, I thought my loving husband had been cleaning snow and ice off our car in front of the house every morning. I thanked him only to learn the neighbour was doing that, too! Since then, the man has cleaned windshields and even spent an entire day replacing my rear brake light, just to "keep you safe".

Given that our university-adjacent neighbourhood isn't the ivy-strewn academic oasis we fantasized, I installed motion-activated security cameras. In June I checked an alert on my phone and found video evidence of the same neighbour aggressively mowing my front lawn. Despite my "thank you, you didn't have to do that," he kept my lawn trimmed all summer. When we went on vacation, he audaciously asked us to clean up the dog poo in the backyard so he could mow there as well.

When this all started, I was suspicious. What did he want from us? Assuming it was baked goods, I instructed my children to bake delicious sugar and fat-filled treat and take them to his house. The next day, he knocked on my front door and dropped off a massive batch of cookies. I gave up.

After two years of living next to this gentleman, we are starting to see his influence on our children. My son was asked to shovel a neighbour's front walk if it snowed while they were away and refused to accept payment for being on call. My daughter voluntarily fed fish for another neighbour down the road. Neighbours report that my children engage in pleasant conversations and walk around projecting a friendly openness that is unnatural in hormonal teenagers.

They might be broken.

I worry about my children's future. How will they survive our ruthless capitalist society with altruistic habits? In some kind of Belgravian conspiracy, other neighbours freely share garden fresh vegetables and drop off homemade jams or chutneys. What will happen when my children fail to hoard food and raw materials? It's not worth contemplating.

You can inspect your home and pick your friends, but you're stuck with your neighbours. If you see me chatting with neighbours, be assured it's just me trying to talk them down from this prolonged kindness offensive. I'm doing the best I can.

Christine Tsai Taylor is a Taiwanese-American writer, storytelling consultant, and diversity specialist with a bonus Dutch passport. She thinks she's funny. In 2024, she received a writing grant from the Edmonton Arts Council. Canada is her seventh country, and she loves calling Belgravia home. You can find her and her writing online at christinetsaitaylor.com



SAVE THE DATE

Belgravia Community League

Celebrating **70** years of a rich tapestry of cultures

The Belgravia Community League (BCL) is throwing a big, dragon-sized party to celebrate our 70th Anniversary and to kick off our 2024-25 Membership Drive. Belgravians of all ages are invited to join in the wild rumpus of a dragon-themed afternoon followed by our AGM.

Renew your BCL Membership to get complimentary food tickets. If you've already renewed online, bring your receipt and collect your tickets at the event.

Volunteers are needed to help us make this the best party ever! Contact: programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Saturday, September 28, 2024

- 2:30–4:30 pm: food and activities
- 4:30 pm: Dragon Dance in the park
- 5:30–6:30 pm: BCL Annual General Meeting

Featured activities

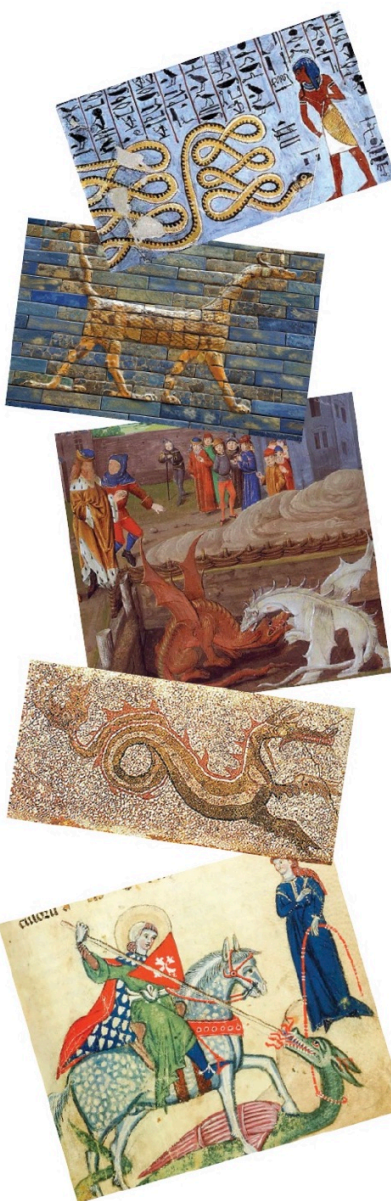
- The Obstacle Course (Rink)
- Dragon Colouring contest (Lower Hall)
- Dragon Costume making free (Mt. Belgravia)
- Dragon Story (Cozy Corner in the Carpet Room)
- Dragon Dance (all around the park)

Complimentary treats with 2024-25 BCL Membership

- Fat Frank's Food Truck (with plant-based and gluten-free options)
- Lemonade and other beverages
- Craft Beer Tasting with Greg Zeschuk of Blind Enthusiasm Brewing
- Anniversary Cake from Mood Café

A big thank-you to our event sponsors

- Westrich Pacific Corp.
- Blind Enthusiasm Brewing Company
- Mood Café



Dragons Diversity
Egyptian
Mesopotamian
British
Grecian
St. George killing last Dragon



Dragons Diversity
Chinese
Iranian
Athenian
Russian