

#### **BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY LEAGUE**

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Website: <u>belgraviaedmonton.ca</u> Facebook: <u>belgraviaedmonton</u>

Twitter: <a>@belgraviaYEG</a>

Next submission deadline: March 24, 2025

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 (Dené), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot).

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Cover photo by Graeme Kelly

# 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. You can also read *The Belgravian* 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**

Submit ads to: newsletter@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Ad formats: PDF, JPG, PNG, TIFF

#### Ad Payment Methods

E-transfer: treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Include message: "Newsletter Ad"

Cheque: make payable to "Belgravia Community League"

Mail to: Belgravia Community League, P.O. Box 52202, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2T5

2025 NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Submit by

Jan 13

Mar 24

May 20

July 14

Sept 15

Nov 17

Non-Member: \$100

Delivery

Jan 25/26

Apr 5/6

May 31/June 1

July 26/27

Sep 27/28

Nov 29/30

Issue

**April** 

June

August

October

December

February

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

Card size (vertical or horizontal) 8.5 cm x 6 cm	1/4 page (vertical) 8.5 cm x 12 cm	1/2 page (horizontal) 18 cm x 12 cm			
All businesses BCL Member: \$25 Non-Member: \$50	Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor Park businesses only BCL Member: \$50	Belgravia, McKernan, Windsor Park businesses only			
	Non-Member: \$75	BCL Member: \$75			

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

All BCL memberships expire on August 31st.

Renew your annual membership at:

belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership

# Board & Committee Contacts

BCL BOARD MEMBERS					
President	Michael Cohen	president@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Vice President	vacant	vicepresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Past President	Cory Dawson	pastpresident@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Secretary	Scott MacLean	secretary@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Treasurer	Shirley Perry	treasurer@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Membership Director	Jane Taylor	membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Communications Director	vacant	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Facilities Director	Felix Meir-Stephenson	facilities@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Planning & Place Director	Devon Beggs	planning@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Programs Director	Jeanette Boman	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
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Director-at-Large	Christina Lau-Hoang	director2@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Director-at-Large	Barry Edgar	director3@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Director-at-Large	Robert Bhatia	director1@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
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Newsletter Distribution	Susanne Rowe	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
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Social Media Coordinator	vacant	communications@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
FACILITIES TEAM					
Hall Manager	Shauna Lengyel	hallrental@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Rink Manager	Don Wilson	rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Arts Park Team Leader	Kathy Goble	kkgoble@telus.net			
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TE	EAM				
Abundant Belgravia	Irene Andersson	abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Casino Coordinator	Reg Norby	norby@shaw.ca			
Made in Belgravia Initiative	Jeanette Boman	mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Neighbourhood Resource Coord.	Darrell Nordell	darrell.nordell@edmonton.ca			
Belgravia Elementary Liaison	Irene Andersson	abundantbelgravia@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Traffic Committee Chair	Robert Bhatia	traffic@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Belmac Soccer Coordinator	Mike Blennerhassett	belmac@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
	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 neighbourhood densification, transportation and other issues. You can support your community by buying a membership and volunteering.

#### **BCL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

- BCL Hall rental privileges and member rates
- Member advertising rates for *The Belgravian* newsletter
- Member rates for programs at the BCL Hall
- Complimentary access to select BCL events such as the annual Community League Day BBQ, Halloween party, and Holiday Market
- Option to sign up for member email updates with timely BCL news between newsletter issues
- 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

#### ABOUT THE SKATING RINK

- BCL members can access our local rink and all city community league rinks with their 2023
   BCL membership skate tags
- The skate change room is open 8 AM-10 PM daily; lights are kept on until 9:45 PM
- A schedule with protected times for family skates vs. hockey action is posted near the entrance to the ice

Purchase a BCL membership at: belgraviaedmonton.ca/bcl-membership/

#### JOIN THE BCL 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.

#### **Communications Director**

Help spread the message about our remarkable programs and initiatives by informing strategic communications and overseeing our various channels.

#### **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.

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



## **BCL News**

Thanks to Don Wilson and his rink team, the BCL rink opened before Christmas. As a BCL supported project, we ask all those who use the rink to purchase a current BCL membership. We do not have the resources to check for skate tags at our rink. However, if you wish to skate at other community league rinks where skate tags are checked, please request one at: membership@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Ours is a family rink and we ask that people respect the skating schedule as outlined below.

#### RINK CODE OF CONDUCT

- No alcohol, smoking or foul language.
- Carry out what you carry in. The BCL does not have a janitorial service and depends on volunteers to help keep the area litter free.
- The rink is closed during maintenance. Please respect the efforts of the volunteers and stay off the ice until the rink is ready.
- You can help out by clearing the ice when you are finished skating. Snow shovels and blades can be found around the rink area.
- The schedule as outlined below is also posted at the rink gate. On statutory holidays, the Saturday schedule must be followed.
- All skaters must give way to the designated skater group.

#### SKATING LESSONS ANYONE?

If you and your family are interested in skating lessons at the BCL rink, contact: programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca

If there's enough interest, we will make it happen!

For concerns about how the rink is being used, contact Don Wilson: rinkmanager@belgraviaedmonton.ca

#### SKATING SCHEDULE

- 9 am-10 pm: Skate Change Room is open (west of public washroom)
- 10 pm: Rink Lights Out

MONDAY TO FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
9 am-3 pm: Elementary School skating (no sticks)	9 am–2 pm: Family Skating (no sticks)	9 am-3 pm: Family Skating (sticks allowed)		
	2–4 pm: Youth (7–13) Shinny (helmets required)			
3–6 pm: Elementary School Skating/Shinny (sticks allowed)	4-6 pm: Family Skating (sticks allowed)	3–6 pm: Family Skating (no sticks)		
6-8 pm: Multi-aged Shinny	6-8 pm: Multi-aged Shinny	6-8 pm: Multi-aged Shinny		
8–10 pm: Adult Hockey/Shinny	8-10 pm: Adult Hockey/Shinny	8–10 pm: Adult Hockey/Shinny		

## **BCL News**

#### RINK RENEWAL PROJECT UPDATE

by Larry Krushelnitzky, BCL Rink Renewal Committee

The Belgravia Community League's outdoor rink replacement project is steadily moving forward. Based on community feedback and anticipated costs, the BCL Board has decided to replace the current rink with a new grass surface rink, maintaining the same size. The new rink will feature modern boarding, improved lighting and upgraded drainage. The total estimated cost is projected to be between \$300,000 and \$350,0000.

#### **Concept Phase**

Funding for the rink will come from a combination of BCL funding, City of Edmonton's CLIP (Community League Infrastructure Program) grants, and community fundraising. To date, we have secured a \$25,000 planning grant from the City through the CLIP program. In addition, the BCL Board has committed to the league providing \$150,000 in funding. Our next step is to hire a consultant to develop a preliminary design and cost estimate, which are required to obtain City approval before moving forward with the project.

#### **Fundraising**

In the summer of 2025, we will begin seeking donation pledges from Belgravia residents. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 through community contributions.

In January 2026, we will apply for a larger CLIP grant. These grants are matching funds, and the amount we request will depend on the pledges raised from the community and the funding committed by the BCL Board. The City will announce the results of this CLIP application in April 2026.

#### **Design and Build**

If we are successful in securing both community funding and the second CLIP grant, we will hire a contractor to complete the detailed design and prepare a bid slate for the demolition of the existing rink and construction of the new rink. We anticipate that construction will take place over the summer and fall of 2026, with the new rink ready for the 2027 season.

#### **CASINO FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS**

by Reg Norby, 2024 BCL Casino Coordinator

The BCL held its 2024 Casino on November 30 and December 1, thanks to the support and the generous way some 35 BCL members and neighbors shared their time and talents. The funds raised will be forthcoming in February 2025 and will aid in providing support for the rink renewal, maintaining the Hall, and funding events and programs over the next two years.

Thanks for answering the call once again! You can expect the next "Casino Call" in the fall of 2026.

On behalf of the BCL, thanks again Belgravia friends and neighbours!

# Programs at the BCL Hall

Our Programs Director, Jeanette Boman, has lined up a cornucopia of programs to take you into spring. As program details can change, see the latest schedule at: belgraviaedmonton.ca/programs

ACTIVITY	DATE, TIME & PLACE	FEE	REGISTRATION/CONTACT			
Pilaga	Mondays: Jan 13-Mar 17	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Susan Middleton:			
	8:30–9:30 am	Drop ins	pilatestoday@yahoo.ca			
<b>Soapstone Carving</b>	Mondays: Jan 13-Mar 24	Set by group	Lorne Wensel:			
Club	7–9 pm		lorne@wensel.ca			
Girl Guides	Mondays	Set by Girl Guides	Christine Schneider:			
	6:30–8:30 pm		discoveringthefun@gmail.com			
Boot Camp	Tuesdays: 7–8 am Thursdays: 6:30–7:30 am	Drop-in \$15	Emma Klein: ecklein@ualberta.ca			
Matt Yoga	Tuesdays: Jan 21-Mar 4	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Jeanette Boman:			
with Elise Ure	Thursdays: Jan 23-Mar 6 9:45-10:45 am	Drop ins	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Fit for Life	Tuesdays: Jan 21-Mar 4	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Jeanette Boman:			
with Elise Ure	Thursdays: Jan 23-Mar 6 11 am-Noon	Drop ins	programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
BCL Knitters	Wednesdays: 7–9 pm Community Living Room, BCL Hall	BCL Membership	Jeanette Boman: programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Sound Bath with Bev Ross	Wednesdays: Jan 29, Feb 26, Mar 26, Apr 30 7–8:30 pm	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Jeanette Boman: programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Music & Movement	Wednesdays: Jan 29-Mar 12	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Nancy Hunt:			
	10:15–11 am		nancysnotesmusic@gmail.com			
Belgravia Walking	Wednesdays	Open to all walkers in	Cam McGregor:			
Club	10 am, at playground	the community	cam.mcgregor@shaw.ca			
NIA Fitness	Thursdays: Jan 9-Mar 20	BCL/Non-BCL rates	Kirsten Bartel:			
	7–8 pm	Drop ins	fleurishmovement@gmail.com			
Friday Night Movies	6:30–8 pm, Upper Hall Feb 7: The Wild Robot Mar 21: The Garfield Movie Apr 4: The Super Mario Bros. Movie May 2: Harold and the Purple Crayon Jun 13: Inside Out 2	Drop in, parents or guardians to stay with kids 12 and under.  Popcorn, cookie & juice box concession stand.	Jeanette Boman: programs@belgraviaedmonton.ca			
Zumba	Saturdays: Jan 11-Mar 1 9:30-10:30 am	BCL/Non-BCL rates Drop ins	Allison Moore: moore4movement@gmail.com			
Edmonton Insight Meditation (EMI)	3rd Saturday of month starting Jan 18 8:30 am–12:30 pm	Open to all Belgravia residents Fee set by EMI	Janet Smith: smithjanet166@gmail.com			

# **Upcoming Events**

#### FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES AT THE HALL

Where: BCL Upper Hall

Monthly Friday Night Movies at the Hall are family events indeed. BCL Board Secretary, Scott McLean, his wife Ariane Fielding, and their sons, Alex, Andrew and Ted make movie night magic happen. Together they select films, set up the room and projector, manage the concession stand, and clean up when the fun is over. Their aunt from Camrose even bakes cookies for the concession, with proceeds going to the rink renewal project.

This dedicated family of cinephiles has lined up a new slate of fun movies for 2025, starting with the award-winning animated film, *The Wild Robot*, on February 7. Bring your pillows to this pyjamafriendly event and a couple of loonies for snacks and beverages.

#### Here's the full lineup:

• February 7: Wild Robot

• March 21: The Garfield Movie

• April 4: The Super Mario Bros. Movie

May 2: Harold and the Purple Crayon

June 13: Inside Out 2

#### **BELGRAVIA FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION**

Where: BCL Hall and rink When: Monday, February 17

• 3:30–5:30 pm: shinny & broom ball in the rink

• 5:30–7 pm: potluck supper in the Upper Hall

Also on a family theme, we're thrilled to bring back the Belgravia Family Day Celebration. Enjoy outdoor activities outside in the rink, followed by a potluck get-together in the Hall. Bring a favourite family dish (and recipe) to share with family, friends and neighbours. Watch for further details on the BCL website or in member email updates.

# MADE IN BELGRAVIA SESSION: THE SCIENCE & ART OF LONGEVITY

When: Wednesday, March 5, 7:30–9 pm

Where: Upper BCL Hall

**Fee**: bring a donation for a plant-based snack

RSVP: mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca

Join Belgravia's very own Dr. Olive Yonge, U of A Professor Emeritus (Faculty of Nursing). She'll be leading a discussion about Dr. Peter Attia's best-selling book *Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity (2023)* – a "groundbreaking manifesto on living better and longer that challenges the conventional medical thinking on aging and reveals a new approach to preventing chronic disease and extending long-term health". (goodreads.com)

There's no need to purchase the book to participate in this stimulating session. But let us know you're coming so we can prepare for the number of people attending.



#### PLANT-BASED COOKING DEMO & POTLUCK

When: Sunday, March 16, 5-7 pm

Where: Upper BCL Hall

**Cooking demo theme**: Chickpeas **RSVP**: mib@belgraviaedmonton.ca

The next food-themed demo & potluck evening takes place on March 16 and will feature... chickpeas! Watch a cooking demonstration covering easy recipes, then enjoy a potluck meal with your neighbours. Bring your favourite vegetarian dish and recipe to share after the demo. Please also bring your own cup, plate and cutlery.

## Recent Events

#### **COOKING DEMO & POTLUCK**

Our popular food-themed evenings are continuing into 2025 (see Upcoming Events on page 8). After the last one was held on January 19, organizers Darlene Williams, Susan Andrew and Monika Fouad reported that it was a lot of fun and a great community meal. "They just keep getting better! Such a nice addition to have someone preparing a dish and people asking questions, exchanging recipes and interacting. And, everyone helped clean up!!!"

#### 2024 HOLIDAY MARKET

Thank you to all who contributed to our annual Holiday Market on December 11. Organizers Brenda Philp, Darlene Williams, Heather Kerr and Jeanette Boman set the event in motion. Twenty-five Belgravia vendors shared their talents, and a large number of attendees made it a priority to shop local. A sale of Pat Galbraith's paintings and sculptures raised \$178, which was donated to the BCL following Pat's sons' wishes. Thanks also to everyone who purchased cookies or hot apple cider at the market! Irene, Arthur and Everett stayed busy serving at least 60 mugs of cider and baking over 100 cookies. The sale raised a \$100 donation to the Bissell centre and \$83 dollars for the rink renewal.



#### MARY POPPINS SING-ALONG!

On January 10, around 25 movie lovers came out to the hall (14 kids and 15 adults) for the Mary Poppins Sing-Along. The Guardian describes this well-loved 60-year-old classic as possessing "thermonuclear brilliance". It was hard not to join in with tunes like Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Spoonful of Sugar and Let's Go Fly a Kite. Shirley Perry, our dedicated BCL Treasurer and community theatre actor, demonstrated her own thermonuclear brilliance as she sang her heart out while wearing classic red plaid Christmas pyjamas... proving BCL Friday Night Movies really are a pyjama-friendly event for everyone!

# Meet Your Neighbours

#### **HOWARD SAUNDERS AND LEE ONISKO**

by Michael Coen

Howard Saunders, a lover of all kinds of music, first heard Lee Onisko on her CKUA radio show and "fell in love with her voice." After years of telephone calls while she was on the air, Howard arranged a face-to-face date. They later married on the anniversary of that date, and he moved from Calgary and settled into the Belgravia home that Lee had lived in since 1996.

Lee and Howard enjoyed diverse areas of work before their retirements. Howard, a long-time Calgary furniture and appliance retailer, later worked on masonry restoration of the historic McLeod Building in downtown Edmonton and ended his employment life as "the guy" in the gardening department of the Strathcona Home Depot. Among many jobs, Lee was a social worker, window dresser, mall decorator, proofreader, writer, editor, music librarian, children's bookseller and, from 1993 to 2000, a producer, programmer and presenter at CKUA. Alberta's listener-supported "voice for music, arts and culture," CKUA was founded in 1927 and is a much-beloved institution for music fans throughout the province.

When CKUA went off the air for five weeks in 1997 in the wake of a series of disruptive changes to its funding and governance models, Lee was part of a team of staff and devoted donors that saved the station and led it to the success that it continues to enjoy. In fact, Lee was hosting a marathon meeting of the team at her Belgravia house when the news of the shutdown arrived. Soon after that meeting and in that same living room, CKUA's David Ward and Lee hatched a plan to tour the province to visit (and tune up in anticipation of a return to the air) the station's 17 Alberta transmitters in what became the legendary *Touch the Transmitter Tour*. The emotional five-day trip connecting with the CKUA community was transformative for Lee.

That storied Belgravia house was also central to the new adventure that Lee and Howard began in 2021. As they planned for retirement, they wanted to find a way to affordably stay in Belgravia and to provide affordable housing for others as well. They decided to build a "laneway house" in the large yard behind the original house, an arrangement that is unusual in Belgravia. Lee and Howard moved into their new net-zero house in 2022, along with their collection of over 4,000 record albums. They rent their old house to two sets of lovely tenants.

While still in the throes of redesign, their property is a showcase for Howard's passion for gardening. Meanwhile, Lee has begun to entertain Belgravians with her local-themed crossword puzzles. (Lee: *Tibetan turquoise goddess?" Really?!*)

#### BELGRAVIA: Here and Near

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The long-awaited key to Lee's crossword puzzle that was in the December newsletter.

Facing page: portrait of Lee and Howard Onisko with their music, by Michael Coen







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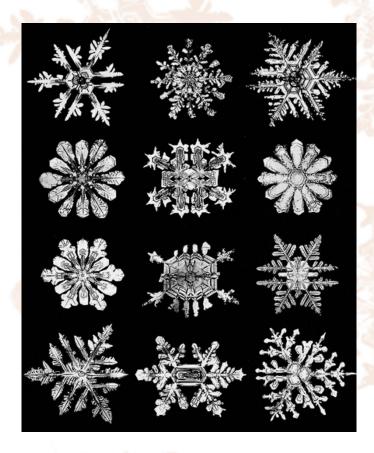
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CHRIS
780.709.0811
chris@proctorteam.com



# **Brain Games**

#### THE FROZEN ART OF WILSON BENTLEY



Gifted a microscope at the age of 15, Wilson Bentley (1865–1931) went on to photograph snowflakes on plates of glass. Mesmerized, he continued to document them for 46 years, referring to these ephemeral natural wonders as "miracles of beauty."

Read more about 'Snowflake Bentley': https://www.themarginalian.org/2020/01/19/wilson-bentley-snowflakes/

Editor's note: I too was given a microscope at a young age but chose to put it aside and peer closely at computer screens instead. This edition of *The Belgravian* features a flutter of Bentley's snowflakes across its pages, inverted to black on white.

#### FEBRUARY SNOW

By Garth Paul Ukrainetz Poet of the Blackmud Creek

February snow can't miss your falling Always sure to drift my way Cling to pant legs, holding tightly Begging me to come and play

Slide upon a long toboggan Skate across a pond of ice Downhill ski on powdered mountain Friendly little snowball fight

February snow I know you're lonely This time of year I feel it too Maybe we should get together

Glide along the trails across country Snowshoe thru the meadows white Snowmen build in brightest sunshine Angels make on moonlit night

