

The Riverbend Ragg-Times

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Call for a “Just Transition”

Edmontonians gather to ask the Federal Government to pass legislation that would help ensure families and communities can adjust to social and economic changes

By Michael Ganley

About 40 people gathered in the Riverbend Square parking lot, outside the office of MP Matt Jeneroux, on Saturday, March 12 to call on the Federal Government to pass a Just Transition Act. The rally referred back to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s announcement in 2019 that his government would introduce legislation to support workers and communities in the transition to a low-carbon global economy.

“The transition is underway, but there are no policies in place to control profiteering and to support the people whose livelihoods are at risk,” says organiser Melanie Hoffman. “We’re not seeing enough to ensure that families are able to move through this transition well.”

The rally was part of a nationwide campaign initiated by 350 Canada. The action in Edmonton included a mock news conference organised by Climate Justice Edmonton in front of the office of Liberal MP and Associate Minister of Finance Randy Boissoneault. It imagined a press conference in the year 2025, in which the fictional Ministry for a Just Transition spoke to the things that had been achieved and the work yet to do. It envisioned land transferred to Indigenous communities, a passenger train between Edmonton and Calgary and an emphasis on bike lanes over new roads.

“The new economy needs policies in place that support workers and communities so nobody gets left behind,” says Hoffman. “Alberta should capitalise on its traditional industrial skills and its natural advantages.”



Michael Ganley

Lewis Cardinal of the Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre (left) and community advocate Melanie Hoffman (right) addressed the audience, as did Councillor Tim Cartmell (not pictured).

Volunteers collected signatures for a petition to demand the Federal Government pass a Just Transition Act, which has been in consultations for years. Hoffman intends to ask for a meeting with Mr. Jeneroux to present the petition and ask that he speak to it in Parliament. “We can work together to do the best for our communities in this or we can just have it happen to us and

suffer through it,” says Hoffman. “I came to this as a chemist concerned about the composition of our atmosphere. Now, I believe many of the solutions would help address the cultural and societal issues we’re grappling with, so you’d want to implement them whether you care about the climate or not.”

Lillian Osborne High School Forced to Implement Lottery System

Recent provincial budget provides no relief for overcrowded school system

By Ragg-Times Staff

Lillian Osborne High School will implement a lottery system for students entering in the fall of 2022. The move is necessary because demand from within the school’s attendance area is greater than the school can accommodate.

Julie Kusiek, trustee for Ward F of the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB), says she’s heard a lot of concern and fielded many questions from parents of incoming students, who may have to travel long distances by bus

in the fall. “This is something that the division saw coming for many years. We have asked for additional funding for new schools,” Kusiek said in an interview with the CBC. “We haven’t been provided that in sufficient quantity, and now we’re stuck in this situation where we have to figure out where all the students go.”

The recent provincial budget will provide no relief, as no capital projects were announced for the EPSB, despite the government recording a \$500 million surplus. The budget did approve

the construction of two new Catholic schools in the Edmonton area: a high school in Castle Downs and a combined elementary and junior high school in Lewis Farms.

The EPSB’s total budget for 2021–22 is approximately \$1.2 billion. The Board projects that student enrolment this year will be 106,048 students; this includes projected home schooled, international, and other non-resident students, and is approximately three per cent higher than September 2020 enrolment.



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info@riverbendonline.ca

Editor's Note

Let There be Sun

I'm finally getting solar panels, and I'm excited

By Michael Ganley



I hope you don't mind if I tell you a personal story, it's just that I'm kind of excited. My family and I are getting solar panels installed on our roof this summer. It's something we (or at least I) have wanted to do for a while, and the stars have finally aligned. I'll give you some details, because I think many homeowners in Edmonton are wondering about the option but not sure of the economics.

First, some details: We're getting 16 450-watt panels put on our roof for an installed capacity of 7.2 kilowatts. They are predicted to provide 7,059 kilowatt-hours of energy over the course of the year, more than 100 per cent of our annual demand. The installed cost is a little more than \$19,000, but after rebates from Natural Resources Canada and the City of Edmonton, the cost to us should be about half that.

We opted not to get a battery because it would have added significantly to the cost. We've also not added a charger for an electric vehicle, since we don't yet have one. But the system is basically a plug-and-play: We can add panels and inverters and a battery or EV charger down the road should we choose.

The array will provide us with far more electricity in the summer than we consume, and less than we consume in the winter. We'll sell electricity to the grid in the summer months and buy from it in the winter. I expect we'll sign up for Alberta's Solar Club Loyalty Program, which allows micro-generators like us to sell to the grid for a premium while buying at the going rate. The expectation is that we'll get to sell at around \$0.26 per kilowatt-hour in the summer while buying at about \$0.09 in the winter.

The array will provide us with far more electricity in the summer than we consume, and less than we consume in the winter

We should be able to pay for the system within seven years by saving on our electricity bill in the winter and selling in the summer. But as soon as the panels are up and operating we're basically in the black: Our real estate agent said the value of the system goes onto the value of the house right away.

The panels should be on the roof in June or July, depending on when the contractor can get us into their schedule (and on whether or not the City's permitting department can keep up with demand). At that point, the sun will provide us with the power we need to run our fridge, washer, dryer and everything else electrical in the house. It'll be a good feeling. Here's to the sunny days of summer!

LOST SOMETHING at the Brookside Rinks?
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Please stop by the Brookside Rinks if you think you left something there or contact Karin at rinks@riverbendonline.ca.



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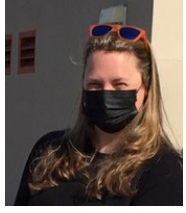
President's Note



Come Volunteer With Us!

The Riverbend Community League has three open positions

By Miep Raedschelders, President, Riverbend Community League



How we relate to one another as community members has a natural and direct impact on our quality of life. Volunteering on the Riverbend Community League Board is a constant reminder that we all benefit from the diversity and inclusion of our friends and neighbours. If you have ideas, energy and team spirit, volunteer! Join a board! Join our board!!

Your RCL is looking for a few members to join the team. We have three positions open on the Board right now: the Neighbourhood Watch Director and Terwillegar-Riverbend Advisory Council Ambassadors for Brander Gardens and Brookside. If you are interested in making a positive difference in your community and have the gift of time to share, please contact us at info@riverbendonline.ca.

We live in a world where different ideas,

stakes and points of view can drive a painful wedge. The community league movement is proof that we have much more in common than not and that we can all play a role in bettering our society. Leagues are here to help you bring your ideas to life. Whether you want to start a book club at the hall, learn more about gardening, play bridge, write for the Ragg-Times or have another idea that might benefit your neighbours, the RCL is here to help.

Summer camp registration, outdoor sports and weekly activities are well underway. The RCL is hosting the Pedalheads bike camp program at Brookside Hall. We continue to seek convenient programming for kids and adults alike.

Our rinks at Brookside are popular despite the rollercoaster conditions that winter weather has brought. We can operate these rinks thanks to the purchase of memberships and charge of a nominal drop-in fee for non-members. RCL

appreciates your support to help us bring this valuable amenity to our neighbourhood. We've got great puck boards and lines in the hockey rink and now offer refreshments to enjoy after a great skate! Our rinks will be open as weather permits.

Spring is a powerful season. Spring represents growth and rebirth, opportunity and emergence. Spring is a time when the snows melt, and people come out of their homes to spend time with others once more. With the Omicron wave easing, we once again turn our focus to building community and engaging with our family and friends to make Riverbend a lovely place to call home.

On behalf of the RCL, I want to send solidarity and strength to all our community members whose hearts are heavy with grief because of conflict in their homeland or worry for family and friends.

Need Space for Your Event?

The Riverbend Community League hall is available for rent!

The Riverbend Community League has two great rental spaces available at 258 Rhatigan Road East, ideal for family and community gatherings. The facility includes a kitchen, a dance floor, an outdoor patio, and is wheelchair-accessible. Large washrooms. Lots of parking. The main hall seats 150, and the social room seats 41.



For more information and to book, get in touch with rentals@riverbendonline.ca.

Riverbend Community League is hiring an Executive Administrator

Send your resume and cover letter to president@riverbendonline.ca

Responsibilities include - office administration, book-keeping, attendance at monthly board meetings, etc. **Skills needed** - basic accounting knowledge, computer knowledge, great interpersonal skills, independent work ethic.

A full job description is available on the RCL website (riverbendonline.ca)

Competition remains open until position filled.

Support for Victims of War

Canadians are seeking ways to help people suffering from the war in Ukraine

By Ragg-Times Staff

There are about 1.4 million people of Ukrainian background living in Canada, more than anywhere outside of Ukraine or Russia. So it's no surprise that the responses in this country to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, from the highest levels of government to the neighbourhood Facebook group, have been potent. Everything from plane loads of

Edmonton is home to 160,000 people of Ukrainian descent, and there are 370,000 in Alberta.

medical equipment to money from youth-run bottle drives have headed from Edmonton to Ukraine. Sewing circles and faith communities have sought creative ways to help. Perhaps the most prominent donation drive is being led by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. Donations can be made at cufoundation.ca.

And importantly, the Federal Government has taken steps to make it easier for Ukrainians to immigrate to Canada. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has introduced new immigration streams for Ukrainians who want to come to Canada temporarily or permanently.

"For Ukrainians who want to come to Canada temporarily, we will create a Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, available for individuals fleeing Ukraine," says the IRCC. "There will be no limit to the number of Ukrainians who can apply. This is the fastest, safest, and most efficient way for Ukrainians to come to Canada and eliminates many of the normal visa requirements. All Ukrainian nationals will be able to apply through this new path, and, pending background check and security screening, their stay in Canada could be extended by at least two years."



Brander Gardens Street Labs Project

A survey was completed in late 2021, identifying areas for improvement

By Deann Stein Hasinoff, Brander Gardens Traffic Committee

Brander Gardens is engaged in Vision Zero's Street Labs program. A community traffic committee identified three areas where safety could be improved, particularly for youth walking or biking to and from the local schools. A public engagement virtual meeting

What do improvements at this intersection look like to you?

1. People feel safer when crossing the street
2. Improved driver behaviour
3. Reduced conflict between different modes of transportation and pedestrians

Street Labs Proposal

After reviewing the survey, information gathered at the community meeting, and recommendations from the city based on their own review, the traffic committee put forward the following proposal:



The intersection of Riverbend Road and 56th Avenue is one of several that has been identified as a trouble spot.

Gina Thede

and a survey were completed in late 2021. A summary of the survey results is below. The full report can be viewed on the Riverbend Community League website (riverbendonline.ca) under the Brander Gardens tab in the top menu bar.

Street Labs alone will not address all the traffic safety issues in Brander Gardens. Using Vision Zero programs and engaging with multiple City of Edmonton departments, as well as community members, will achieve the result of increased safety for drivers and pedestrians. Our neighbourhood requires input from experts to develop functional solutions that are viable year round. The city traffic engineering department is working to identify possible improvements.

The survey supports finding solutions to manage the overall volume of traffic entering the neighbourhood for the schools, daycares, and child-centred activities. There were 97 respondents. The top three answers for each question are listed. Comments can be read in the full report.

What are some of the traffic safety problems you see in Brander Gardens?

1. Too much vehicle traffic
2. Drivers not obeying rules
3. Dangerous intersections

Do you have other traffic safety concerns not listed above?

Traffic volume associated with schools in the area, particularly Tempo School, was a frequent comment. Please see the report for full comments.

What problems do you see at the intersection of 56th Ave. and Riverbend Rd.?

1. Unsafe driver behaviour
2. Unsafe crossing
3. Drivers not yielding to pedestrians

Which Street Lab Feature Labs do you think will help improve this intersection?

1. Vibrant crosswalks (77.8%)
2. Curb extensions (46%)
3. Shared streets (31.7%)

What problems do you see at this crosswalk between Brander Dr. and 58th Ave., crossing Riverbend Rd.?

1. Drivers not yielding to pedestrians
2. Drivers going too fast
3. Unsafe crossing

What do improvements at this crosswalk look like to you?

1. Improved visibility
2. People feel safer when crossing the street
3. Improved driver behaviour

Which Street Lab Feature Labs do you think will help improve this crosswalk?

1. Vibrant crosswalks (78.5%)
2. Curb extensions (44.6%)
3. Shared streets (24.6%)

What problems do you see at this intersection of 148th St. and Riverbend Rd.?

1. Unsafe driver behaviour
2. Drivers not yielding to pedestrians
3. Drivers going too fast

What do improvements at this intersection look like to you?

1. Improved driver behaviour
2. People feel safer crossing the street
3. Improved traffic signage

Which Street Lab Feature Labs do you think will help improve this intersection?

1. Vibrant crosswalks (89.1%)
2. Shared streets (41.3%)
3. Curb extensions (34.8%)

56th Ave. and Riverbend Rd.:

- Vibrant crosswalk for all sections of this intersection used by pedestrians (three crossing areas)

Crosswalk between Brander Drive and 58th Ave.:

- Vibrant crosswalk
- Curb extensions (as recommended by the City of Edmonton based on the types of safety issues reported)

148th St. and Riverbend Rd.:

- Vibrant crosswalk for all sections of this intersection used by pedestrians (three crossing areas)

Next Steps

In February, the proposal was reviewed by the Street Labs team and several City departments (e.g. infrastructure, transit, etc.) The city traffic department completed assessments in our area. They are developing a proposal for additional changes that will help with the volume of traffic and the safety problems that arise from it.

The traffic committee will meet with the Street Labs team in the second week of March. The final decision regarding the proposal will be discussed as well as the other traffic safety initiatives the City will put forward for Riverbend Rd. and 56th Ave. and Riverbend Rd. and 148th St.

Further comments can be found in the report at riverbendonline.ca. Questions or comments can be directed to the traffic committee at brandergardensvision@gmail.com.

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Ridge Rinks Rock!

A small army of volunteers has built and maintained the ice since it opened in December

By Ragg-Times Staff, Photos by Richard Svekla and Jim Bradshaw

Just before Christmas, The Ridge Community League opened its new outdoor rinks – one full-sized with boards and a second snowbank rink – and both the League and the ice have been busy ever since. In between shinny games and free skating, a small army of volunteers has wielded shovels, snow blowers, brushers and the home-made “manboni” to keep the ice in shape.

“How many hours? That’s a tough one,” says Richard Svekla, one of those volunteers. “At the beginning we were there almost every day.” There was a lot of trial and error as the crews learned the intricacies of making outdoor ice, particularly this winter, with so many freeze-thaw cycles. Some volunteers went to ice-making sessions run by the City of Edmonton. Experienced ice-masters from other community leagues offered advice, and of course a few area dads have some experience with backyard rinks. “They would say, ‘This is what I’ve tried. This is what I’ve done,’” Svekla says. A few of the hard-learned lessons: if you don’t remove all snow before flooding,



you get bumps; you can’t just use hot water because the water heater isn’t big enough; freeze-thaw cycles allow bubbles to form in the ice, making it brittle; and the brusher makes life a lot easier.

And then there’s the manboni.

At one point in the winter, retired engineer, dedicated ice-maker and Ridge Community League President Jim Bradshaw saw a simple flooding machine in use at another community league. A few pipes and a length of rubbery fabric attached to a hose made a

pretty effective, low-cost, carbon-neutral ice resurfer. “He said, ‘I can make one of those,’” Svekla says. “So he bought pipes and pieces from Princess Auto and made it.”

Spring to it: Get the Family Involved in Home Cleaning, Organizing, and Purging

Seven Tricks to channel your inner Marie Kondo

By Gordon Edmiston



Are you contemplating a spring clean? Where should you start to get the best bang for your buck? And can you get the kids involved?

Develop strategies for organizing and sorting.

Reading Marie Kondo’s *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* was a game changer for me (you can also binge the series on Netflix). Don’t be afraid to borrow ideas from any of the books, articles, and other online resources on this topic. If it feels too daunting to handle on your own, perhaps a friend or local professional organizer can help you out.

Start by getting rid of what you don’t need.

No sense in wasting time organizing things you won’t use. Sort items into categories: garbage/recycle, donation, long-, and short-term storage. Take this opportunity to re-organize heavily used spaces (pantry, closets, kitchen cupboards

and drawers). Don’t overwhelm yourself with trying to tackle it all at once. Completing just one nagging drawer or closet is still worthy of celebrating.

Involve your kids in the process. Make it fun. We use this as an opportunity to get our kids engaged and figure it is never too early (or late) to work on this particular life skill. Keeping the earnings can be a good incentive when their purged items can be sold. If the only thing you hear is “That one is my favourite,” you may need to wait until the kids are out of the house to carefully discard the collection of Happy Meal toys (and that is okay, too).

Donations? Many local charities will accept donations year-round, including winter gear. Just be sure to check their webpages for restrictions and drop-off times.

Items to sell or trade? There are many online neighbourhood swap/trade sites or community markets in our area and the resale clothing market is strong with many clothing

consignment shops operating locally.

Bottles/cans? Many local children’s sporting/service groups will pick up and save you a trip to the depot.

Shredding? Sure, you might have a pile of papers that you’re hanging onto for getting the summer fire pit going, but if you are doing a deep clean of your home COVID office, you probably have more than that. There are environmentally friendly and secure options for disposing of paperwork with annual events in the spring and summer at no or low cost.

If you can make it a consistent habit, you won’t find yourself in panic mode with big purges. My dad always said “clean as you go.” He would write this on Post-It notes through the house to remind my brother and I. Perhaps if we could all follow this motto the need for that spring clean would vanish.

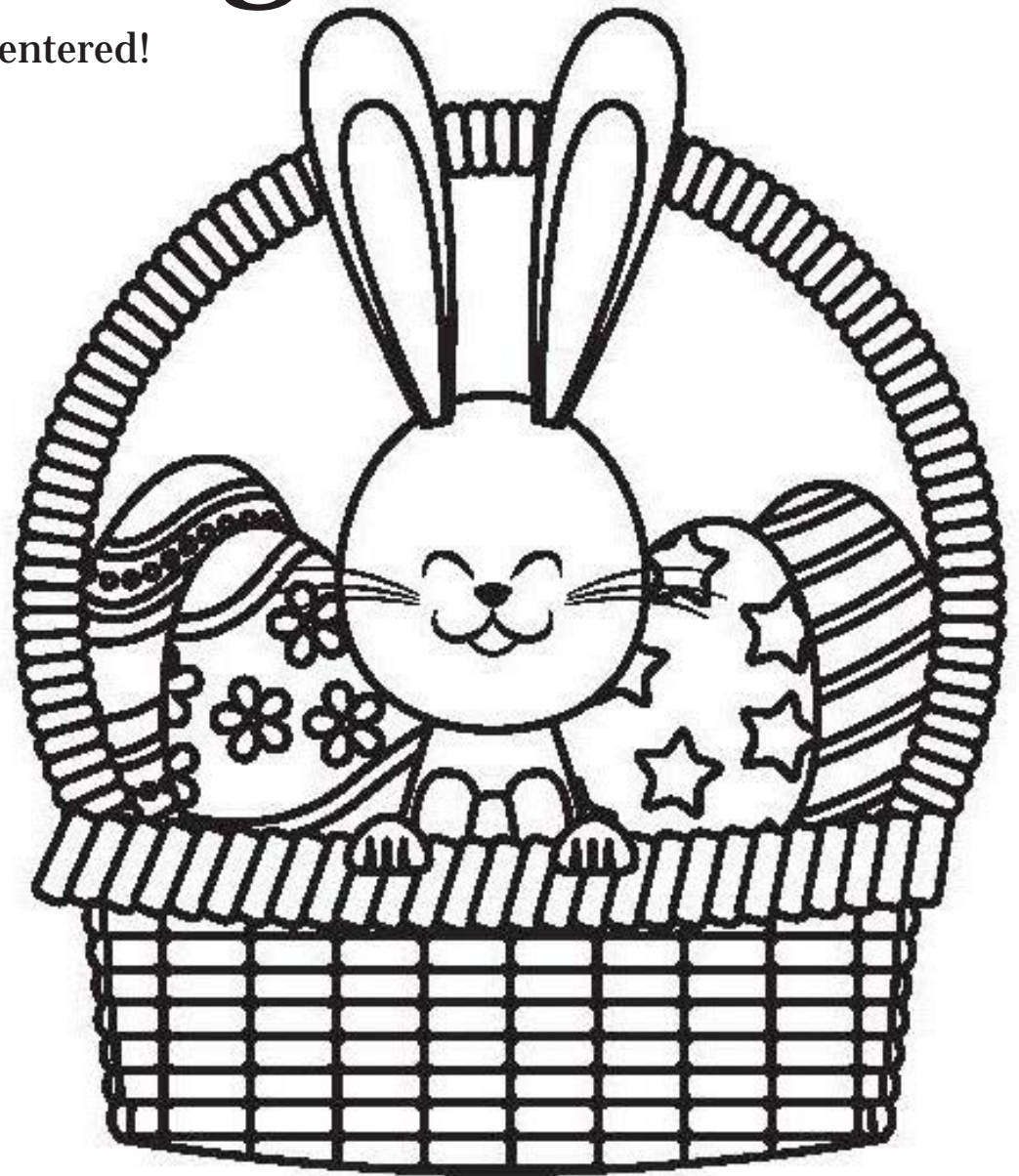
Start something now. Start small and don’t forget to reward yourself for your efforts. Happy organising folks!

Spring Colouring Contest!

Get out the crayons and colouring pencils and get entered!

Just in time for spring, the Riverbend Community League has organized colouring contests for children in three age groups, 3-5 years, 5-7 and 8-11. Please send scanned submissions to info@riverbendonline.ca or drop them off at the RCL office, 258 Rhatigan Ridge East. One artist's name from each age group will be drawn at random to receive a gift basket.

The deadline to submit is Monday, April 4 and winners will be contacted by Monday, April 11. By submitting, you consent to the RCL publishing the submissions along with the name and age of the artist.



Ages 9-11 Child's Name: Parent contact info:

HAPPY SPRING



Ages 3-5 Child's Name: Parent contact info:



Ages 6-8 Child's Name: Parent contact info:

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Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it is.

Don't be afraid to say no - Don't be intimidated by high-pressure sales tactics. Watch out for urgent pleas that play on your emotions.

Do your research - Always verify that the organization you're dealing with is legitimate before you take any other action. If you've received a call or other contact from a family member in trouble, talk to other family members to confirm the situation. Watch out for fake or deceptive ads, or spoofed emails. Always verify the company and its services are real before you contact them.

Don't give out personal information: - Beware of unsolicited calls where the caller asks you for personal information,. If you didn't initiate the call, you don't know who you're talking to.

Beware of upfront fees: - Many scams request you to pay fees in advance of receiving goods, services, or a prize. It's illegal for a company to ask you to pay a fee upfront before they'll give you a loan. There are no prize fees or taxes in Canada. If you won it, it's free.

Protect your computer: - Watch out for urgent-looking messages that pop up while you're browsing online. Don't click on them or call the number they provide. No legitimate company will call and claim your computer is infected with a virus. Don't give people remote access to you computer.

Be careful who you share images with: - Carefully consider who you're sharing explicit videos and photographs with.

Protect your online accounts: - Create a strong password. Enable multi-factor authentication. Only log onto your accounts from trusted sources. Don't reveal personal information over social media.

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City Council Considers Two Major Bylaws

Vaccine requirements were met with resistance and confrontations, putting front-line workers at risk

By Tim Cartmell, City Councillor



I hope everyone is starting to enjoy the longer days and warmer weather.

Earlier this year, Edmonton City Council had two major conversations regarding City bylaws: a Restriction Exemption Program (REP)-equivalent bylaw and the temporary face-covering bylaw.

In February, City Council voted to not enact a municipal vaccine passport program after the Province of Alberta removed its restrictions. I could not support enacting a new municipal vaccine passport bylaw.

The provincial REP was intended to motivate people to get vaccinated, and 84 per cent of Edmonton-region residents now have two vaccinations. More recently, however, the vaccine requirements were met with resistance, non-compliance and confrontations. These circumstances were putting front-line workers in threatening situations. While a continued passport program may have resulted in more people getting a third booster vaccine, in my view we had reached “peak cooperation.” It was time to end the vaccine passport requirements.

In early March, City Council voted to repeal its temporary face-covering bylaw. I voted to repeal this bylaw based on feedback from City

Administration and business communities; Edmontonians and constituents called and emailed my office about this issue. Nearly 70 per cent, across all stakeholder groups, favoured rescinding the City’s mask bylaw.

Related to City bylaws, the Province recently tabled Bill 4. If passed into a law, Bill 4 would repeal any City bylaws regarding masking and vaccine requirements. Any subsequent bylaws will require provincial review. These provisions don’t apply to City-owned and operated spaces.

As of this writing, Council is looking into enacting a mask bylaw for transit and city-owned, publicly accessible indoor facilities. Please refer to my website (timcartmell.ca) or reach out to my office for updates on the current status of this bylaw.

Looking forward, further public engagement will occur regarding the Terwillegar Drive Expansion in the coming months. Engagement will include conversations about Stage 1A/1B, currently under construction, and Stage 3 construction, scheduled to start in 2023. To stay up-to-date on these engagement opportunities please visit edmonton.ca and click on “City-run Projects.” I encourage you to sign up for regular project updates at the bottom of the relevant webpage.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions regarding City operations at 780-496-8130 or at tim.cartmell@edmonton.ca.

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EVENT: TRAC Annual General Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, April 26th, 2022
LOCATION: TBD
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA:

Looking back on last year's events & accomplishments
 Election of New Executive

In-Person Yoga at the Riverbend Community Centre

Spring 2022

Multilevel Hatha
 Instructor: Bev Moore
 Mondays 8–9:30am and 9:30–11:00am
 Wednesdays 8–9:30am and 9:45–11:15am

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- Improve quality of sleep
- Improve breathing
- Reduce stress
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 For more information, visit riverbendonline.ca

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Gardening



Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market Back in Swing

Sprouts and Young Vendors Programs both return

By Lisa Jodoin

We are so excited to be back again this year for our 11th season of the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market! There are so many exciting things we will be bringing to the Terwillegar neighbourhood, so let's get started!

Our season starts on Wednesday, May 18th from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm, rain or shine, in Lot D at the Terwillegar Recreation Centre. We run every Wednesday until October 5th. SWEFM is a make, bake or grow market with a variety of amazing vendors to supply our community with fresh products and handmade goods.

The most exciting news we have for this season is that we are pleased to announce that the much-loved Sprouts Program will be returning for the 2022 season! This is a free nutrition program for children ages 4-12 years old that gives them the opportunity to purchase fruits, vegetables, and food plants with a token worth \$2. The purpose of the program is to introduce kids to nutritional food choices, empower children to make their own healthy eating choices, educate them about where their food comes from, and encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle. Part of running the Sprouts program is community sponsorship. If you or your company might want to proudly sponsor this fantastic program, please contact the Sprouts Coordinator at swefm.sprouts@gmail.com.

We will also be re-introducing our Community Tent. This tent is available for not-for-profit organisations who wish to introduce themselves into our community to help raise their profile. For more information, stop by



swefm.ca and click on the Community page.

SWEFM is always looking for volunteers to help with our market each Wednesday throughout the summer. This is a great opportunity for high school students or retirees to support their community and be part of our amazing market.

Again this season, we will be offering our Young Vendors Program. Last season our Young Vendors were an enjoyable addition to our market each week. This program recognizes young entrepreneurs between the ages of 13 and 17 who want to explore the world of Farmers' Markets to sell their products. For more information, stop by our website and click on Young Vendors.

This season we will continue with our special event days including Artisans Showcase, Senior's Day, Corn Festival, Food Truck Rally, and many more fun and exciting days.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers to serve on our Steering Committee. If you're willing and able, please get in touch with swefm.manager@gmail.com.

Keep up to date with all of our news and events swefm.ca and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. See you all in May!

A Bird Came Down the Walk

By Emily Dickinson

A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad, --
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, plashless, as they swim.

Want to get Your Hands Dirty?

The Green & Gold Garden looking for volunteers

By Patricia Hartnagel

It's the Year of the Garden and a perfect time to check out the Green & Gold Community Garden on the University of Alberta's South Campus. Join us for our 14th season and the opportunity to learn more about gardening, volunteer at a very special community garden, and become part of the larger Edmonton gardening community.

Our garden is totally volunteer run, and, with over 50 varieties of vegetables, a large assortment of herbs and flowers, a fruit orchard and a hoop house, the opportunities to get involved are numerous and varied. Novice and experienced gardeners are welcome!

The Green & Gold Garden is a garden with a difference. Because we are volunteer run, 100 per cent of the money raised from produce sales at our market days throughout the summer go to support the Tubahumize Association in Rwanda. This non-profit offers socially and economically marginalized women vocational training, counselling, health care education and micro credit loans for sustainable income generating activities.



Don't want to get your hands dirty? Don't worry, we have other volunteer opportunities that contribute to the successful operation of our garden with a difference.

To find out more, go to our website, greengoldgarden.com, or email gsgarden@ualberta.ca.

Canada Must Stand up for our Defence and Security

Putin's attack on the Ukrainian people and their democratically elected government violates international law and our collective humanity

By Matt Jeneroux, MP, Edmonton Riverbend



Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is the first major European conflict since the Second World War. Together with millions of Canadians and the Ukrainian community in Canada, I strongly condemn Putin's actions and stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

Putin's aggression and invasion of Ukraine is unacceptable. His attack on the Ukrainian people and their democratically elected government violates international law and our collective humanity. His actions threaten world peace and bring death and uncertainty to millions of innocent Ukrainians. The world cannot let tyrants and aggression like this go unchecked.

Canada has proactively taken measures and invoked strong sanctions on Russia, all of which I will continue to support. However, I, along with my Conservative colleagues, will continue to call on the government to take additional actions to strengthen Canada's response to Putin's actions. This includes expelling Russia's Ambassador from Canada and recalling Canada's Ambassador from Moscow, implementing visa-free travel from Ukraine to Canada, developing a robust plan to defend Canada's Arctic, and reforming the pipeline approval process to make it possible to build new pipelines to tidewater. This last step will support the energy needs of our European allies.

It is critical that Canada stand up for our national defence and security,

and with Ukraine, its people, and Canadians in the Ukrainian community. Our security here in Canada is tied to that of Europe, which is exactly why Canada must strengthen our own defences in the face of threats from Russia and renew our commitment to NATO.

There are an estimated 330,000 Albertans who claim Ukrainian ancestry. Ukrainians in Alberta have a proud history and have helped build the fabric of our beautiful province. To the Ukrainian community in Edmonton Riverbend who have been affected by this senseless invasion of Ukraine, I extend my support and sympathies.

Canadians needing consular assistance in Ukraine can contact Global Affairs Canada's 24/7 Emergency Watch and Response centre (Telephone 613-996-8885; Email sos@international.gc.ca; Text message +1 613-686-3658).

As your Member of Parliament, I am watching the situation closely and will continue to update the residents of Edmonton Riverbend. The situation in Ukraine continues to evolve quickly but it is important that we remain united in our resolve to deal with Russia. We must all stand with Ukraine.

As always, if you need support or have any comments or questions about what is happening, I would be happy to discuss. Please contact my office at 780-495-4351 or Matt.Jeneroux.C1@parl.gc.ca. We would be pleased to assist you on any federal matters.





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What's in a Number?

A little, a lot, and sometimes several different things

By Colleen Crozier

They're everywhere! Numbers on bus routes. Numbers in passwords. Numbers on phones. Numbers are useful as labels and codes, but some numbers have come to mean more. They act like simple explanations, bringing to mind life's situations, and giving us some pretty descriptive shortcuts.

0-60 in 5 Oooh, that's fast! Zero-to-60 mph in 5 seconds, the speedster's goal. Also, a measure of a person's bad temper. A senior might say, "What would that be in metric?"

Buy your 50/50 tickets now on our website swesa.ca. Sales close March 31st - there is still time!

10 You're a big kid, now, with your double-digit birthday. For SWESA it's an anniversary. This year we're celebrating 10 years of providing educational, physical fitness, and social activities for seniors 55+ in Southwest Edmonton. Seniors at SWESA might say, "Happy Anniversary to



SWESA Seniors enjoying real "facetime" again.

us! And come join us. Celebrate spring with in-person programs and activities. You can find program information on our website."

50/50 It's the fair deal, the equal opportunity,

the perfectly shared burden, the even odds. Through SWESA's 50/50, you can spring ahead with a little extra cash. Proceeds go directly to supporting programs. Seniors at SWESA will say, "Thanks so much!"

20/20 Perfect vision, right? Also, hindsight. Seniors might say, "If I'd known then what I know now..."

60/40 It's the uneven split, the greedy grab. It's also the nobler gesture, the extra effort, the greater burden accepted. Seniors might say, "60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight."

51/49 Not a nice set of numbers, some will say. Others will tell you it's the only way to do business. It's the one we use when one person or party has controlling interest, has just that edge needed to outvote the others.

Liking these numbers or not depends on which side you're on. Seniors digging in their vast memories might say, "Dear, was our first car a '51 or a '49?"



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Our Holy Week services:

- **Good Friday, April 15th** 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service
- **Easter Sunday, April 17th** 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service

You may also be interested in our **Lenten movie discussion series**. Check out our website at www.riverbendunited.org for details on how to view and join our discussion.

We wish you a blessed Easter season.

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Like a Garden, Public Education Needs Cultivation

We need to demonstrate that we value education if we want young people to make Alberta home

By Rakhi Pancholi, MLA, Edmonton-Whitemud



At the time of writing this, the war in Ukraine is top of mind for many of us. Alberta has the largest population of Ukrainians in Canada and I stand with the people of Ukraine and with all the Ukrainians who

call Alberta home.

As we turn our thoughts to the onset of spring, many of us are thinking fondly of more time spent outdoors, whether to meet old friends on a patio, visit the Southwest Edmonton Farmers' Market or planting gardens in our backyards.

Everyone who's ever planted a garden knows that you get back what you put into it. It needs to be carefully cultivated to grow. The same is true of our children's education. If we want our children to succeed in life, and to be engaged citizens, we need to carefully cultivate our public education system.

Many children learn best in a classroom, where they can receive engaging instruction from qualified teachers and learn social skills by interacting with other children. Government has the responsibility to take steps to make that

possible.

We need safer schools in which our children can learn, free from worry for their health and well-being. Throughout the pandemic, my NDP colleagues and I proposed ideas to make schools safer including providing N95 masks for students and staff, installing HEPA air filters for schools to keep the air in schools cleaner, and establishing in-school vaccine clinics.

Schools must be properly funded with more teachers, not more standardized tests. The previous NDP government ensured that funding for schools increased as enrollments increased. Unfortunately, over the last three years, education funding has been cut, meaning there are now more students and yet 1,000 fewer teachers in our public education system. This has placed enormous pressure on students, parents, and teachers. Kids need classes that are small enough to ensure they get the attention they need to succeed. Greater investment is needed now to make up for learning losses and to support student mental health.

We need a modern curriculum that gives children the skills they will need to succeed in a

modern global economy and be responsible and caring citizens in a diverse society. Unfortunately, the new curriculum proposed by the UCP is outdated, Eurocentric, and developmentally and age inappropriate. It fails to take into account the way children actually learn and it doesn't give them the skills they need to succeed.

I believe this draft curriculum must be replaced with a modern curriculum, one developed with the help of parents, teachers and educational experts that will prepare our kids for the challenges that lie ahead.

Finally, and most importantly, we need to demonstrate that we value education itself if we want young people to continue to make Alberta their home. We need to make decisions based on data, evidence, and advice from Albertans with expertise and lived experience. In short, we need to cultivate our public education system and our youngest Albertans. If we do that, our economy will blossom and all Albertans will reap the benefits.



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Earl Buxton School is now accepting registrations for the 2022-2023 school year!

Please visit our school website at earlbuxton.epsb.ca to enjoy our virtual kindergarten presentation, school video, and FAQ sheet to answer your questions, or call the school at 780-435-1577.

Please register at epsb.ca.
Registration before April 14, 2022 is recommended.



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A Great Riverbend Neighbour!

After having a vehicle stolen and observing some neighbourhood crime issues several years ago, Barb Scott found ways to make her neighbourhood safer

By Dave Rumbold

Local resident Barb Scott is stepping down from the Riverbend Community League Board after building a successful Neighbourhood Watch program in Brookside. Family and volunteer commitments are increasing and something has to give!

After having a vehicle stolen and observing some neighbourhood crime issues several years ago, Barb went looking for a way to identify behaviours of concern for residents. The Neighbourhood Watch “Walk your Block” program fit the bill, and Barb signed up for it in 2017. She joined the RCL at the same time.

Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch has been around since the 1970s. Its philosophy is to educate and engage residents so they can be aware of suspicious activities and act as the eyes of the police in their community. Residents who know what to look for, and have access to a communication tool such as Neighbourhood Watch, are more likely to become aware of unusual activities and report them. Being more aware of routines in your neighbourhood and

recognizing changes is at the core of the program. This local community support greatly enhances the ability of police to know what’s going on so they can increase their presence if needed. This is often enough to mitigate local concerns. An example is a group of idling cars on a quiet street late at night. This often indicates certain illegal activities. The last thing they want is for people to notice them and notify police.

Barb contributed regular Neighbourhood Watch updates on the Brookside Facebook page and distributed flyers to everyone in Brookside. All of this enabled neighbours to stay better informed and monitor areas of concern. Another goal of the program is for residents to get to know each other better and look out for each other. Over the years, Barb set up regular meet-and-greet sessions for residents and our local EPS Community Constable. These have proven to be an excellent learning tool for all involved.

“Barb Scott exemplified neighbourliness while also confronting our community’s safety challenges,” said an appreciative RCL



Dave Rumbold

President Miep Raedschelders. “Barb’s service as our Neighbourhood Watch Director led to an increase in awareness, signage, participation and safety for our community. I am grateful to Barb for her time and the energy she gave Edmonton Neighbourhood Watch and the RCL these past years.”

Best wishes to Barb on her next adventures. You will be missed!

The Alluring Alley

The idea of beautifying my back alley space really appealed to me. It still does.

By Natasha Martin

I walk the alleys in my neighbourhood. Quite a bit, actually. I know I’m not the only one, as the hounds let me know when there’s an “intruder alert”. For me, walking the alleys effectively doubles the walking paths I have access to. Plus, I like a change of scenery after pounding the streets for the last few years.



“I’m planning Step 3 of my back-alley beautification project. I’m thinking maybe a collection of colourful birdhouses, rustic art, windchimes or suncatchers, a fairy door, twinkle lights... maybe even a sign to indicate, ‘Help yourself to the berries.’”

I must admit, however, that walking down an alley can be a

bit... ugly? There are often piles of abandoned items, garbage, weeds, etc. Not really a symphony for the eyes, if you know what I mean.

Last spring, a neighbour challenged us on our friendly neighbourhood Facebook page to think about the blank canvas that is our back-alley space. She asked us to consider transforming it into something beautiful, as many communities across Canada do. Or even just give it enough attention to make it a clean, pothole-free, and pleasant space to enjoy walks with friends, family, and pets.

I must admit, the idea of beautifying my back alley space really appealed to me. It still does. I also must admit... that I was one of the worst offenders when it came to my own little patch of back alley. It was scrubby grass with overgrown raspberry canes and, yes, weeds. So last year when I got some other landscaping done, I asked the contractor if they would also lay

down landscaping fabric and mulch in my alley. And so began Step 1 of my mission to pretty up my alley.

Funnily enough, people noticed. I mean, they REALLY noticed. I even got stopped clear across the neighbourhood by a couple of ladies who mentioned that they love what I did to my alley. I didn’t know that these ladies knew where I lived, let alone that they noticed and appreciated it enough to stop me to chat about it! And, honestly, all I had done at that point was the mulch (and paid someone else to do it for me, to boot!). We finished up the new fence before the snow flew, which was Step 2.

Now, with spring approaching, I’m planning Step 3 of my back-alley beautification project. It’s pretty much a blank canvas and I’m excited to get creative. I’m thinking maybe a collection of colourful birdhouses, rustic art, windchimes or suncatchers, a fairy door, twinkle lights... maybe even a sign to indicate, “Help yourself to the berries” if the raspberry canes poke through the mulch. I definitely



have some flowering perennials that will need dividing and plan to put the divisions along the back alley. Flowers always cheer up a space. I’ll probably throw a few annuals back there too, since I always overbuy. Heck, I might tear the kids away from their electronics for an afternoon and make them paint pet rocks that we can put back there among the plants! The possibilities are endless.

Brookview Community League Update



Lots going on as we gear up for spring

By Sandra Green

Spring is coming! A time for new beginnings, a time to get involved!

Volunteer Board Members Needed: Do you want to help make Brookview a better place to live? Brookview Community League is looking for new volunteer board members. Play an integral role in shaping our community! Contact Lauren Dary at president@brookviewcommunityleague.ca for more information about the opportunities available.

Casino Volunteers Needed for April 9 and 10: Our next Casino night is fast approaching! Many of the BCL facilities and activities that we all enjoy are funded through regular Casino nights. It takes a large number of community volunteers to run a casino. If you can help please contact the casino director at casino@brookviewcommunityleague.ca

brookviewcommunityleague.ca or Kyle Fodchuk at 403-831-1477.

Energide Challenge: Would you like to know how your home's energy efficiency compares to that of your Brookview neighbours? Enter the first ever Brookview Energide Challenge. It's simple: Get your home assessed by an approved Energide assessor and send us your score. As the winner, you could receive up to \$350 and be eligible for federal and municipal rebates! Visit brookviewcommunityleague.ca or email sustainability@brookviewcommunityleague.ca for more information.

Join the Annual Brookview Community Clean Up! This year's Clean Up is on Saturday, May 7th from 10am to 12pm. Come to the Community Centre to pick up your supplies and identify an area where you would like to

pick up litter. Help keep our park, pathways, ravine and streets looking great. Hope to see you there!

BCL Community Swim Sundays 5 pm – 7 pm: Looking for a family activity on Sunday evenings? Come to the Terwillegar Recreation Centre for the BCL Community Swim (and Facility Access). A current BCL membership card is required. Please note that pandemic protocols may change at any time. (See the Terwillegar Recreation Centre website for the current details.)

Yoga Classes: BCL will continue to offer Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Hatha yoga classes with Paige Elniski for Spring 2022. Please check out our BCL website for more details or go to yegtownyoga.ca to register.



Another Magical Sleigh Ride Event! BCL hosted another successful family sleigh ride event on Sunday, February, 20th. It was slightly chilly, but a lovely snowy afternoon and we had a good turnout. Thank you to all of the families who joined us, and thank you for the donated items for the Edmonton Food Bank!

Recent Provincial Budget Fails EPS

The situation at Edmonton Public Schools is dire.
We will run completely out of high school space by 2027

By Julie Kusiek, Trustee, Ward F



Edmonton Public School Board has been busy with several initiatives. One was our recent #BudgetWatch2022 social media campaign. In this campaign, we provided information on four priority areas we wanted to see come through in the provincial budget: classroom supports; mental health; transportation; and infrastructure.

While there were tidbits of good news in the recent provincial budget, there remain several pressures for public education. The most pressing issue for those living in the southwest is that while the province announced 15 new schools for Alberta, Edmonton Public Schools did not receive one. This is incredibly frustrating, especially given concerns about the lottery at Lillian Osborne High School.

Let me be clear. The situation at Edmonton Public Schools is dire. We will run completely out of high school space by 2027 according to current projections.

The province decides when and where to fund schools. As your Trustee, I will continue to advocate alongside my colleagues for the needs of our Division, including the southwest, where we are at or above capacity at several schools in the area. For more details, please sign up for my Ward F Newsletter at juliekusiek.ca.

In other news, our Board is working on strategic planning for the Division. Please keep an eye out for engagement opportunities. I value your feedback, and welcome you to contact me any time or to invite me out to your community meetings and events.

GOOD NEWS for SENIORS !!!!

Petrolia Seniors Luncheon Meetings are happening again!!

Where: Greenfield Community Hall (3803-114 Street)

When: April 19th - 11:45 - 2:00 p.m.

Program: Bob Layton will entertain us with his ventriloquism

Cost: \$20 (all inclusive)

To confirm your attendance or for more information

Call Betty - 434-0711 or Claire - 435-3051

ALL SENIORS WELCOME

Petrolia Seniors Group has been serving seniors in Southwest Edmonton since 1987, when it was started by Southminster/Steinhauer United Church. The church soon handed over the running of the Group to an executive chosen by the seniors and it has been going strong ever since.



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The Anything Tree

A lonely pine in the river valley has become a small community shrine for any occasion

By Ragg-Times Staff

Have you ever noticed the perfectly-shaped pine tree in a small clearing between the Fort Edmonton Footbridge and the Terwillegar Park Footbridge? It's close to the path and, among the millions of trees in the river valley, it's noticeable because, for the past year and a half, somebody has thematically decorated it each month: it has featured hearts for Valentine's Day, a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day and the colours of the Edmonton Oilers for their short-lived playoff run in 2021.

"It's so perfectly situated and so lonely," says Angela Moore, who lives in Rhatigan Ridge and walks or bikes the path pretty much every day. In late November, 2020, on a whim, she decided to decorate it for Christmas. "It took off from there," she says. "A mom left a note on it asking if she could add things and people started putting

family-made puzzle pieces and other things on it. There have even been a few Habs logos."

Moore cleared it with the City of Edmonton employee who empties the garbage cans in the area, who simply asked that no tinsel be used and that things be well-attached so they don't blow away. Moore and two of her friends make a point of taking decorations down after the occasion has passed and keeping the area clean.

Father's Day featured a bunch of actual ties, there was everything pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and, for back to school, a teacher donated chalk that kids could keep.

"The Mother's Day tree last year was probably the most populated," Moore says. "Every branch was full with about 200 messages. That one really filled my heart."



The tree has featured hearts for Valentine's Day, a leprechaun on St. Patrick's Day and the colours of the Edmonton Oilers for their short-lived playoff run in 2021.

Indigenous Cultural Centre Begins to Take Shape

Kihciy askiy will provide a natural setting for spiritual ceremonies, sweat lodges, cultural camps and talking circles

By Ragg-Times Staff

You may have noticed that construction has begun just south of the Fort Edmonton Park horse pasture, between Whitemud Drive and the Alfred H. Savage Centre. It's the first sign of kihciy askiy (key-chee-ask-ee), Edmonton's new Indigenous cultural centre. Kihciy askiy ("Sacred Land" in Cree) will provide a natural setting for Indigenous peoples and communities in the capital region to host spiritual ceremonies, sweat lodges, cultural camps and talking circles; grow medicinal herbs; and facilitate intergenerational learning.

A ground blessing was held in September, 2021, and the contractor mobilised to site in late November. First up is the foundation of the pavilion building. Utility installation, site grading and landscaping will begin this spring.

The 4.5-hectare site will feature four sweat lodges, a permanent ceremonial stone heating device with a water source, circular areas for tipis with permanent feast fire pit for ceremonies and small group workshops, and a large tent gathering area for ceremonial feasts and cultural teachings.

The \$4.5-million centre has been under development for more than a decade. The land was gifted by the Fox family to the City in 1968 for the purpose of public recreation and enjoyment. It is historically and culturally significant and has served as a ceremonial site in the past. Long before becoming farmland, the kihciy askiy site was used for many centuries by the Indigenous people foraging for medicines for healing purposes. Ochre, a rare mineral, is also found close to the site and was used in spiritual and traditional ceremonies.



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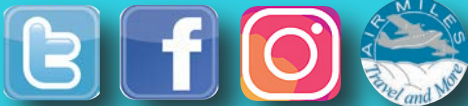


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Cameron Heights \$1,698,000
Elegant custom 3111 sq ft walk-out bungalow with loft. Gourmet kitchen!
ML# E4278308



Brander Gardens \$1,498,000
Timeless classic! 3800 sq ft plus a fully finished basement. Cul de sac location.
ML# E4262784



Windermere \$1,335,000
Westpoint in Windermere! Custom designed 2-storey walk-out. Cul de sac location.
ML# E4271664



Magrath Heights \$1,323,000
Larch Park across from ravine. Rare 3300 sq ft custom estate home. Beautifully appointed.
ML# E4279403



Parkview \$1,299,000
Valleyview facing the ravine 80'x130' treed gorgeous lot. 2724 sq ft 2 storey
ML# E4279579



Windermere \$1,299,000
Executive walkout on huge lot. 2980 sq ft 2 storey + 1158 sq ft fully finished basement
ML# E4270261



Magrath Heights \$998,000
Well appointed custom built. 4800 sqft living space. Chef kitchen. A must see!
ML# E4247916



Henderson Estates \$709,900
1/2 duplex home in a ravine community. 1859 sq ft plus 1254 sq ft ff basement
ML# E4274329



Century Park Penthouse \$699,900
2 bedroom + den. 2 U/G parking stalls. Large deck with a downtown view!
ML# E4250780



Falconer Heights \$498,000
Design & build on the last undeveloped lot. (9000+ sq ft) walk out pie shaped.
ML# E4275830



Terwillegar Park Estates
~ SOLD ~



Trumpeter Area
~ SOLD ~

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